Daily Report

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-033 *16 February 1990*

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Palestinian Affairs

Intifadah Issues Call No. 52 on 14 Feb

JN1502190390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Feb 90

["Text" of Call No. 52 issued 14 February by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, UNLI, "in the state of Palestine"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; call, call, call: No voice rises above that of the intifadah; no voice rises above that of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO; call issued by the UNLI in the face of the immigration, Call No. 52.

O masses of the glorious intifadah; O you who are continuing with an unbending will and resolution, determined to push forward towards the realization of the inalienable rights of our people to repatriation, self-determination, and the materialization of the independent Palestinian state. O you who are pushing forward toward the consolidation of national unity and the safeguarding of the national program—the program of realistic peace—which was adopted at the 19th session of the Palestine National Council. You are continuing with your steadfastness to isolate and tighten the siege on Israel and its American allies. They will try to weasel out of paying the peace obligations and the obligations of the intifadah, whether by continuing with their intransigence, which is displayed by the Likud and its leaders; by Peres' attempts to beautify the Israeli stance, which rejects comprehensive, just peace; or by the attempts to circumvent the right, which the PLO alone enjoys, to form and announce its delegation for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. All this confirms that the success of the Palestinian peace program is a struggling issue, and that the bases for this success are the continuation and escalation of the valiant intifadah, and the firm adherence to the realistic peace program.

The UNLI reiterates its adherence to the PLO's position which was expressed in the PNC decisions, and reaffirms its rejection of all attempts to put pressure on the PLO or circumvent its right to form and announce its delegation—from inside and outside—to the dialogue. The agenda of this dialogue should be open. It should also take place under international supervision as a step on the road leading to an effective international conference.

The UNLI also reiterates its rejection of all attempts to beautify Shamir's plan or put the names of the Palestinian delegation up for negotiation.

O masses of our steadfast people: At a time when our people are daily sacrificing with the blood of their sons and the suffering of the masses in face of the oppressive Zionist policy, they view with deep apprehension the organized immigration of the Soviet Jews to our land. This is because this immigration will obstruct the peace process and inflict severe harm on the masses of our people in view of the fact that the new immigrants will settle in the land of our Palestinian state, as stated by Shamir while talking about the dreams of expansion and Greater Israel. Furthermore, this immigration comes at a time when the occupation authorities are continuing with their intransigence in rejecting the right of a people—who were forced to leave their homeland—to return to their Palestinian state. It also comes at a time when the campaigns of deportation and tight siege on the sons of our people are continuing.

O people of the intifadah: From the position of a friend addressing a friend, the UNLI calls on the Soviet leadership to halt the direct emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel. It also calls on all the concerned countries, the Arab masses, and their national and democratic forces to take firm action in order to check the flow of Jewish immigrants to our land and put pressure on the United States, using the weapon of oil and Arab funds, to make it open its doors to those immigrants.

The UNLI emphasizes the need for convening an urgent Arab summit to discuss this topic. In this regard, the UNLI declares that there are other real dangers facing the masses of our people. These are manifested in the attempts to deport them from the land of the homeland, whether through the suspicious calls to travel abroad, which were recently circulated through the mailboxes, or by tightening the siege on the economic and educational sectors.

While warning the masses of our people against these suspect appeals and attempts, the UNLI declares that the despicable occupation, represented by its dirty intelligence service, stands behind all these attempts to empty the land from its legitimate inhabitants and pave the way to its expansionist dreams. The UNLI reiterates its request for the Arab states to honor their financial obligations as specified by the Casablanca summit so as to enable the PLO to provide the basic requirements of steadfastness for the masses of our people over the soil of our Palestinian state. The UNLI also reiterates and reaffirms its appeal for the Arab masses and their nationalist and democratic forces to form the broadest Arab popular front to support and back the intifadah with all means.

O masses of sacrifice and struggle. We are these days celebrating the anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is a major militant faction in the Palestinian arena. We celebrate this occasion while our people are waging their national independence war against the troops of occupation. While addressing greetings of admiration to the masses of our people who continue to confront the forces of occupation in Gaza, Abu Dis, Nabulus, Bayt 'Anan, Idhna, Bani Suhaylah, Silfit, Ramallah, Qabatiyah, Rafah, and all arenas of struggle, the UNLI stresses the following militant issues:

1. The UNLI is determined to defeat the occupation in this battle. It urges all intifadah activists to launch the most comprehensive and effective campaign to raise up

the masses against this scheme. Let the entire masses of our people shoulder their responsibilities toward this battle. Let us wage this battle based on a unified national action by intensifying the number of slogans we write on walls in every yard, quarter, and alley. Let the strike forces and specialized committees assume their responsibilities in this regard. Let us declare the period 19-26 February a week for intensifying the writing of nationalist slogans.
2. The sons of our people will refuse to erase the slogans written on their houses and walls. The UNLI urges the sons of our people to firmly maintain these slogans.
3. The payment of fines imposed by the occupation authorities on the owners of walls on which nationalist slogans have been written will be firmly rejected.

To confront attempts to settle new Jewish immigrants on the territory of our Palestinian state, the UNLI urges the strike forces to intensify their attacks on the herds of Zionist settlers and set the earth ablaze under their feet.

The UNLI takes pride in the struggle of our students who forced the occupation authorities to reduce public school fees. It affirms the need to solidify a relationship of mutual respect between students and teachers and to build up national education to abort the occupation authorities' attempts to stultify our people.

The UNLI urges all our dear students in all areas to stage sit-ins in the education centers on 27 February to protest the occupation authorities' closure of some schools. In confronting the occupation authorities' policy of stultification against our people represented by the closure of all Palestinian institutes and universities for over 26 months, the UNLI declares that 27 February shall be a day for special activities in order to secure the reopening of educational institutions. On that day, students will head for the Red Cross headquarters to stage sit-ins and declare a hunger strike as of 1000.

In this regard, the UNLI urges all government and non-government organizations, particularly academic bodies, to pressure the Israeli Government into backtracking and reversing its policies of spreading ignorance, so it will reopen our colleges and universities for our students in common with their counterparts around the world. Faced with the determination of the occupation authorities to impose magnetic identity cards on our people in the Palestinian bank, the UNLI declares with the utmost firmness that our people are resolved to defeat the occupation authorities in this battle. It further declares that these cards must be boycotted; it calls for the mobilization of all the people's energies and capabilites to immediately confront any attempt by the occupation authorities to impose them. The UNLI calls on all national productive and industrial bodies and the services sectors, as well as the trade union movement and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, to take on all holders of these cards in jobs and positions appropriate to their skills. The UNLI also calls on popular and agricultural committees to start green and production cooperatives for the holders of these cards.

Having been thrown into confusion by the heroes and giants of the revolution of the stones, the occupation authorities have decided to seal the houses of stone throwers. The UNLI stresses that whatever the repressive mentality of the occupation authorities comes up with is doomed to fail in the face of the steely will of our heroes and their resolve to carry on with their confrontation no matter the cost. It also calls on our masses to confront this old-new policy by challenging the decision of the occupation authorities and defeating them by reopening any home that might be sealed. The active and striking lawyers and their unions are urged to start a worldwide drive to expose this policy and call on world organizations to step in promptly and halt the practice. The Palestinian Department of Islamic Endowments and church organizations, as well as all other societies and bodies, are urged to provide the necessary assistance to house those whose homes are sealed or demolished. The UNLI further urges the engineering union in the West Bank and the engineering society in Gaza, as well as all the neighborhood and popular committees, to restore potentially habitable old and derelict properties to house these families.

The UNLI warns intelligence services and their agents against harming our masses or tampering with their property under the guise of masks and the name of strike forces. As the UNLI asserts that the strike forces cannot possibly engage in such practices, it urges these forces and our masses to pursue and expose these treasonous infiltrators. The UNLI emphasizes the need to maintain national organizations and boost their role. It condemns the work of suspect collaborators to wreck these organizations after prompting by the occupation authorities, which must take the blame for these crimes.

The UNLI calls on the strike forces to stand up to policemen who harass the citizens under the protection of the occupation authorities. As the UNLI values all efforts that have been made to sort out the problem in the village of Tammun, it urges the national reform committees and all national figures to work toward resolving any differences anywhere else for the sake of national and intifadah interests.

To immortalize the martyrs of the intifadah, the UNLI announces to our masses and all organizational and agricultural committees that the period from 1 to 5 March 1990 will be dedicated to starting a wood in each area, to be named the wood of the martyrs. The UNLI also urges nursery owners to extend cooperation to the people and offer them seedlings.

The UNLI emphasizes the need to return to the land, and pay attention to agriculture, given that it is one of the mainstays of our national economy. This is to be effected by establishing agricultural cooperatives, preventing cattle and sheep from entering cultivated lands, planting crops that our national economy needs, concentrating on the planting of fodder to enhance the boycott of Israeli goods, and reclaiming and cultivating wasteland.

The UNLI calls on the masses of our people, national key sectors, popular institutions, the human rights committees, and lawyers to express solidarity with the detainees and their struggle, and to support their strike. The UNLI also emphasizes the importance of entrenching the bases of national unity within these prisons and detention centers.

Nineteen February is a day of general strike in expression of our people's adherence to their land and in protest against the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, and against the attempts to expel our people from their land and homeland.

While congratulating the comrades in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the front's 21st anniversary, and valuing its militant and national role, the UNLI considers 22 February as a day of distinctive escalation in honor of this anniversary.

Twenty-seven and 28 February are days of protest against the occupation forces' continued closure of our universities and higher education institutes.

We pledge to pursue the intifadah until the realization of independence. It is a revolution until victory.

Al-Husayni, Others Named to Cairo Delegation

JN1402183890 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 13 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[Text] Tunis—A ranking Palestinian official has asserted that Faysal al-Husayni will chair the Palestinian delegation named by the PLO for dialogue with an Israeli delegation in Cairo on the nature and substance of elections in the occupied territories. The Palestinian official, who requested anonymity, said the Palestinian delegation does not include representatives of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, or the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] George Habash. He indicated that the delegation consists of pro-Fatah inhabitants of the occupied territories, along with two deportees who will be allowed to return to the occupied territories on the eve of the start of talks in Cairo. These two belong to the DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party. The list of the names of the delegation, the Palestinian official added, which has recently been conveyed to the United States through Egypt, included 16 Palestinian names, three of which were crossed out due to Israel's objection to them on the pretext of their being members of the PLO.

The official pointed to an agreement that gives the United States and Israel the right to cross out three more names so that the Palestinian delegation will consist of only 10 members. He indicated that the United States conveyed the names of the Palestinian delegation to Israel and that the current Israeli-U.S. contacts are focusing on making a final amendment of the namelist and on fixing the delegation's 10 members. Eight of them will be chosen from the inhabitants of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, and two from the deportees. Jerusalem will be represented by Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation, and Dr. Sari Nusaybah, both of whom have other residence addresses in Abu Dis and Ramallah. The Ramallah area will be represented by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, the Nabulus area by Ghassan al-Shak'ah and Mahir al-Masri. According to their religion, the Israelis consider al-Masri Jewish because his mother was Jewish. Al-Masri was elected by his family to replace former Nabulus Mayor Zafir al-Masri, who was assassinated in 1986. As for the Hebron area, it will be represented by Mustafa al-Natshah, who was deputy Hebron mayor when Fahd al-Qawasimah was the mayor and who became Hebron mayor after Al-Qawasimah was deported. As for the Gaza area, it will be represnted by Lawyer Fayiz abu-Rahmah, Zakariya al-Agha, and As'ad al-Saftawi, who is close to the Islamic Jihad. There are two Christian candidates, one of whom will be elected as member of the delegation. They are Ilyas Frayj, Bethlehem mayor, and Hanna Sinyurah, chief editor of the Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR.

Abu-Sharif Urges Israelis to Pressure Shamir

LD1402204190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, the personal adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has called on Israeli public opinion to put pressure on Yitzhaq Shamir to get him to begin negotiating with the PLO in order to end the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Abu-Sharif said, in a news statement carried by Tunis Afrique Presse [TAP] this afternoon, that resistance to the occupation will intensify because the organized Israeli terrorism against the Palestinian people is itself intensifying despite the international efforts being made to begin the peace process. These efforts have multiplied in recent days, especially after the latest meeting of the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers.

He also pointed out that arrangements for the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which are to be held in Cairo, wil be discussed during the tripartite meeting which will include Baker, [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and [Israeli Foreign Minister] Moshe Arens.

'Arafat Receives Soviet, EC Response Messages

LD1402183790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The brother leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of Palestine, received a message from the Soviet leadership concerning developments pertaining to the Palestine problem, within the framework of the continuing consultations between the Palestinian and Soviet leaderships and especially in light of the visit to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of State Baker and his meetings with the Soviet leadership. Brother Abu-'Ammar received the message yesterday when he received the Soviet charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

In addition, he received an urgent message from the prime ministers of the EEC. Brother Abu-'Ammar had addressed an urgent message to the prime ministers of the EEC countries pertaining to the ugly bloody massacres committed by the forces of the Israeli occupation over successive days in Rafah and Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip, to which scores of martyrs and wounded Palestinians fell victims. He urged intervention in order to halt these crimes (?being committed) by the forces of the Israeli occupation and their official terrorist actions in Rafah and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories.

WAFA Editor on Soviet Statement on Emigrants

LD1502232390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1202 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] WAFA's political editor has highly appraised the Soviet Foreign Ministry's statement expressing the Soviet Union's deep anxiety over the settlement of emigrants in Israel, including Soviet ones, in the occupied Arab territories. He added that such a statement, which included a reminder that the Soviet Union has not recognized and will not recognize Israel's occupation since 1967 of the Arab and Palestinian territories, has clearly indicated that the Soviet government has been reassessing its stance in light of its observation of both Israeli and U.S. abuses of the Soviet Union's policy to allow people to practise their freedoms and basic rights. Foremost of these rights is the right to free movement, to travel and reside wherever they like, a fact that affirms clearly that the aim of the motto of human rights, which the United States has been championing for many years, was not the freedom of the individual and human rights per se, but to enable the Soviet Jews to immigrate and settle in the occupied Palestinian territories as Shamir has repeatedly asserted and as has become evident since restrictions have been introduced on the Soviet Jew's settlement in the United States, as the situation is now.

We consider the Soviet statement, together with the Soviet Union's call for a session of the UN Security Council to examine such a serious development and the [Soviet] talks with Baker, as a reaffirmation of the credibility of the Soviet stance supporting the Palestinian people's right and as an expression of recognition of the dangers which threaten it as a result of the Soviet Jews' settlement in Palestinian land, houses, and property, a matter which we, furthermore, construe as an indication of the response to Arab anxiety, expressed daily by officialdom and masses. We, notwithstanding our understanding for the Soviet Union's motives for guaranteeing human rights, also deeply understand that the Soviet Union is, on the other hand, keen that individual rights should not be detrimental to the rights of Palestinians and Arabs as a whole.

We hope to see the Soviet Union taking more steps to guarantee the Soviet citizen's human rights in order to meet the internationally recognized human rights, a matter which means also guaranteeing the natural and human order in the occupied Palestinian territories.

PLO Envoy Rejects 'Baker Plan' for Territories

PM1302122790 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 4 Feb 90 pp 7, 13

[Unattributed interview with Rafiq al-Natshah, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Shakir, "the state of Palestine's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] How do you view and assess the peace endeavors being made to resolve the Palestinian issue?

[Al-Natshah] The peace efforts being exerted are genuine, wearing, and praiseworthy. But peace efforts are one thing and responding to them is another. We do not reject peace efforts or initiatives. We seek peace; but Israel and its supporters reject it. What has happened so far is that all Palestinian and Arab efforts to achieve peace have failed and achieved no success at all, because the United States continues to ignore the Palestinian people, their homeland, and the Palestinian leadership. And when the United States and Israel continue to insist on that, what sort of peace are we talking about? The latest thing on the scene is what is known as the Baker plan or Baker's five peace points, which all lead to the acknowledgment that Palestine as a whole is owned by the Israelis and the Palestinians are merely residents of the "Judaea and Samaria" territory.

So I say: If anyone believes that the Baker plan grants a homeland somewhere in Palestine, let him indentify it. To date we have not been offered so much as a street in Palestine over which we can raise our flag and on which we can establish our entity. The entire world, except the United States, is backing us and wants us to have a homeland. I personally believe that according to the U.S. method the Palestinian people are required to do the following: to admit that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are Israeli territory and that the elections for the Palestinians residing in "Judaea and Samaria" are an administrative self-rule under Israeli control and sovereignty. Israel even refuses to pull out of the polling centers during the elections: There is no Palestinian people in "Judaea and Samaria." There is no legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian delegation expected to participate in the negotiations to be held is to be formed not as the representative of a people but as a representative of those residing inside.

The United States hitherto has not even acknowledged that that territory has its own people Nor has it requested Israel to withdraw. Nor has it exerted any form of pressure on Israel to achieve that.

The world as a whole recognizes the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, but the

United States rejects that, even though the U.S. ambassador in Tunis is holding negotiations with the Palestinian ambassador there!

On this occasion I would like to praise the major role which Egypt is playing to recover the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. And I salute President Husni Mubarak's efforts for the sake of establishing the Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, on Palestinian territory. And strongly supporting the continuation of the peace offensive and the continuation of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue for the sake of achieving a just peace. We are a peaceful people seeking peace and ready to pay the price for that peace in order to recover our rights, the minimum of which is the right to self-determination which leads to the establishment of their state.

[Interviewer] How do you view the effects of the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations on the Arab situation in general and the Palestinian issue in particular?

[Al-Natshah] Like every other Arab, I am actually very pleased at the restoration of matters and relations to normal between Egypt and Syria. This is because the Palestinian cause pays the price for any contradiction on the Arab scene. So we completely welcome the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations and hope that this will pave the way for the restoration of Syrian-Iraqi relations and Syrian-PLO relations. This is because our strategy is based on freezing Arab contradictions in order to confront the major and principal contradiction between the Arabs on one hand and the Israeli aggressor state on the other. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Yitzhaq Shamir said that this year will witness the end of the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories. What is your reply?

[Al-Natshah] We heard much of that talk from Shamir in 1987 and 1988, and we still hear it from him. All I can say and confirm is that the intifadah, God willing, will continue, that Shamir and others will go, but the intifadah will continue until it achieves the Palestinian people's aims. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Central Committee Issues Statement

JN0702083890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1114 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] During the four-day meetings of its ordinary session at the end of January 1990, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] Central Committee reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas. Following its meetings, the following statement was issued:

1. The Palestinian situation: On the Palestinian situation, the statement said: The Central Committee discussed developments in the Palestinian arena from the perspective of the striking contradiction between our people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland and the escalation of the intifadah on the one hand, and the continuation of the PLO leadership's deviationist course, its retreat from the basic principles and national rights, and its relinquishment of the national charter, armed struggle, and all forms of legitimate resistance to occupation, on the other. The intifadah has promoted our people's confidence in their just cause and revived the option of full liberation and adherence to the land and national identity. It has also exposed the fascist, expansionist, terrorist nature of the enemy, and the defeated slogans on holding dialogue with it and the humiliating attempts to meet with its symbols.

The statement added: In this regard, the Central Committee noted that most of the Arab regimes evade their responsibility of supporting the intifadah. It also noted that these regime's silence over the brutality of the Zionist repression, which is flagrantly backed by the U.S. Administration, not only enjoys the cover of the defeatist course of the PLO's official leadership, but also implicitly accepts the insinuation that there is no choice but to accept the proposed settlement that conflicts with our people's national rights and the objectives of their struggle. It also noted that the best guarantee to protect the intifadah, to secure its continuation, and to foil the attempts to exploit it or to undermine its objectives, is by escalating military action against the occupation through an effective and organized alliance between the Palestinian nationalist and Islamic forces inside and outside Palestine. This guarantees the continuation of the intifadah and foils the attempts to liquidate or circumvent it.

The PFLP-GC Central Committee's statement added: The Central Committee held a lengthy discussion on the new stage being experienced by the Palestinian existence in the homeland, which is embodied by the escalation of the Jewish emigration from the USSR and the East European states, and the unprecedented suspect deal involving the Falasha Jews that was concluded by the suspect Ethiopian regime. This deal involves sending the Falasha's to Arab Palestine within the framework of collusion involving several international parties. The statement stressed the need to mobilize the pan-Arab, Islamic, and world forces to assume their historic responsibility and to prepare an effective program and mechanism to confront this danger, which goes far beyond the borders of Palestine to reach the entire Arab existence, not forgetting that the defeatist official policy of the PLO leadership has paved the way for this crime and encouraged it to reach this provocative stage. Perhaps, the strangest pretext used to implement this conspiracy is that the new emigration is taking place within the framework of the so-called respect for human rights. This is as if the Palestinian people, who have been suffering from occupation and annihilation for more than 40 years, are responsible for the absence of these rights; and as if the Zionist occupiers are absolved of responsibility for violating human rights, and as if they are victims who must be helped and supported, and as if

they are not the holders of the biggest and most despicable record of human rights violations for more than four decades.

Regarding the Palestinian situation, the statement adds: Considering the outcome of the conflict with the expansionist Zionism, and all the conspiratorial activities that are aimed at liquidating the revolutionary Palestinian spirit, priority must be given to discussing the Palestinian unity, especially since it is an important condition for formulating the national reply to the current dangers posed by the proposed capitulatory plans. The Central Committee discussed the necessary requirements and atmosphere to achieve this unity under the current circumstances of our Palestinian struggle. It stressed that the unity of the nationalist forces, including its factions, activities, and figures who abide by the national charter, armed struggle, and the resolutions of the legitimate sessions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] is the cornerstone of and springboard to building effective unity in the Palestinian arena, and that this guarantees the formulation of the vital future program and rules for dealing with all developments and possibilities.

The statement added: The Central Committee paid special attention to the new methods being used by the U.S., Zionist, and reactionary circles to distort our national cause. Among these methods are branding the legitimate national Palestinian struggle with terrorism, and concentrating their campaign, which is not without significance, against our front, its leadership, and strugglers. The Committee renewed the entrenched conviction that our struggle against the occupation and the occupiers has never been terrorism, whether according to history and humanitarian norms, or to the laws, rules, and regulations laid down by the international community and its political, legal, and humanitarian institutions. Throughout its long life, our front has never carried out any action to which legal and moral characteristics of terrorism apply. It has never directed its combat activities against innocent civilians. It holds only the military personnel and formations of the Zionist tyranny and repression responsible for the pains of our people. It has always been proud of struggle for freedom, liberation, and peace. Its record is full of examples of this. This record is very bright and can never be tarnished by accusations, rumors, or tendentious campaigns in which European and Arab organs and parties are involved, in addition to the PLO's deviationist leadership in an attempt to terrorize the strugglers of our front and all Palestinian strugglers, and to weaken their vigilance to confront developments.

The statement added: While reviewing and discussing the conditions of confronting additional challenges posed by the new circumstances of the conflict, the Central Committee stressed the importance of alliance with Syria based on the joint steadfastness and confrontation of all the conspiratorial schemes. It followed with appreciation the sincere and responsible Syrian reply to the U.S. and European blackmailing attempts and pressures to undermine the fraternal militant relations with our front. It also reiterated its commitment to its alliance with the Libyan Jamahiriyah on the bases of the joint struggle against the capitulatory plots that are being hatched against the Palestine question and the rights of its people by the Arab reactionary forces and the deviationist course, and which was entrenched by the years of the long confrontation against the imperialist-Zionist aggression.

The statement emphasized the promotion of militant ties with the Islamic revolution in Iran. It said: The Central Committee has reviewed the prospects of political alliance with its revolutionary leadership with the objective of promoting it to achieve the common objectives of the Iranian and Palestinian peoples, to confront the expansionist Zionist colonization on the holy land of Palestine, and to carry out joint action to mobilize all the revolutionary nationalist and Islamic forces in the region and the whole world to confront the international, Zionist, and reactionary schemes, and the deviationist course in the Palestinian arena.

2. The Arab situation: On the Arab situation, the statement said: The Arab situation, including all its constituents and possible developments, was the focus of extreme interest, particularly the negative aspect of the effects of international developments, including the doors they have opened for the imperialist attempts to impose the U.S. hegemony and control over most of the region's states and to shackle the Arab nation with a cordon of suspect bases, agreements, alliances, and deals. It added: At a time when the shackles of subservience and the walls of partition are being exposed to the biggest blows and tests in the contemporary age, which is the positive aspect of the international developments, the reactionary Arab regimes can find no alterntive but to get closer to imperialism on the one hand, and to regionalism on the other. In the absence of the minimum level of pan-Arab solidarity, this has facilitated the reactivation of the Camp David policy as an acceptable key to settle the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The statement added: Pausing at the latest political developments in Lebanon, the Central Committee believes that the volatile situation is nominated for a new round of devastating collapses due to the determination of the United States, the Arab reactionaries, and the fascist isolationist forces to push the settlement far from achieving a national solution that deprives political feudalism of its privileges, achieves the rights of the Lebanese nationalist and Islamic forces, and guarantees the continuation of struggle against occupation by the Lebanese and Palestinian nationalist and Islamic resistance movement. While the arrogance of fascist General Michel 'Awn and his isolationist clique, who are backed by the Baghdad regime, the Tel Aviv aid, and the alliance with the course of deviation in the Palestinian arena, is pushing developments into new labyrinths, facts prove the objectivity and soundness of the Damascus agreement that was signed by the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] and the Lebanese nationalist movement under the auspices of Syria, as a basis for the assumed

solution to the civil Lebanese war, the fraternal Palestinian-Lebanese relations, and the joint struggle against the Zionist occupiers.

The PFLP-GC Central Committee statement adds: With pain and sorrow, the Central Committee reviewed the sad results of fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, and noted that these results have caused harm to the common cause that unifies the forces of nationalist and Islamic jihad against the Zionist occupation and the isolationist forces, and gave prominence to the military strength of the 'Arafatist capitulationist forces to achieve suspect political objectives. We appeal to both sides to stop this fighting. We also denounce its recurrence. It stressed that safeguarding the social and political situation in Lebanon and its southern part in particular, is the responsibility of all the nationalist and Islamic forces. This will secure struggle and resistance in southern Lebanon for all the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist and Islamic forces under all political circumstances to fight the occupier Zionist enemy.

The statement added: The Zionists are currently discussing, with the implicit blessing of the 'Arafatist course and some international parties, the issue of reviving the alternative Palestinian homeland with the aim of expelling our people from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to Jordan in an attempt to create a Jordanian-Palestinian conflict and foment sedition between our Palestinian people and the fraternal Jordanian people. While warning against these schemes, the Central Committee calls on the two fraternal peoples to confront this conspiracy and safeguard the historic militant relations between the two peoples within the framework of the pan-Arab militant unity against imperialism and Zionism, and for liberating Palestine.

In the context of its review of the Arab situation, the statement said: The latest Arab developments gave prominence to the escalation of popular struggle for democracy and respect for the rights of Arab citizens. While expressing support for allowing democratic freedoms and respecting the Arab citizen's basic freedoms, the Central Committee believes that several slogans raised in this regard need to be entrenched so that the aspired democracy will be a sound one, and not only a temporary slogan necessitated by transient circumstances. However, the essence of the Arab developments reveal contradictions that cannot be controlled and results that cannot be predicted. On the one hand, the democratic trend and the defense of human rights are growing, while on the other hand, the overwhelming majority of Arab states' stands toward the issues of pan-Arab struggle are deteriorating. In light of this, the close attachment between the struggle for democracy and the rights of the Arab citizen and the pan-Arab struggle becomes necessary. This attachment is justified, because the democratic achievements and human rights cannot be protected without a pan-Arab course guaranteed by the progressive and nationalist system, and there can be no pan-Arab course without democracy that secures the continuation and development of that course.

3. The international situation: The PFLP-GC Central Committee statement concluded by reviewing the international situation. In this regard, the statement said: The Central Committee gave the international situation and its developments extraordinary attention regarding their reflection on the future of international relations in general, and on the fate of our pan-Arab and Palestinian struggle in particular. Perhaps, the early and first conclusion of the nature of international developments is that there is an essential change in the structure and balances that determine the nature of the age and existing conflict. This goes far beyond a transient or limited description of these developments. The other conclusion is that the Third World states and the national liberation movements reaped most of the negative aspects of this change because it gave the United States the upper hand to control the world's fate and future in light of the withdrawal of the Soviet role and the retreat of its influence on the political map and after the USSR has ceased to be a force that can bridle the aggressor, reactionary, and Zionist forces. The third conclusion is that perestroyka and the so-called new thinking in the USSR started these developments and later ended with catastrophes that harmed the USSR and the socialist states. This raised doubts among several political sectors and forces and revolutionary states. They refused, and they have the right, to be involved in the process of mortgaging themselves to imperialism and world capitalism, and to allow them to control their destinies. Therefore, it is necessary to support these states and forces, foremost of which are Cuba, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Angola, and other forces and states that adopt the same stand, exercise the policy of sovereignty and steadfastness, and refuse to be mortgaged or blackmailed.

We are bound to view the new international developments from the angle of our national and pan-Arab interests. This means that our alliances and relations with the other forces and states will be based on these considerations. In light of this, we find ourselves struggling by all means against the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, which is one of the results of this serious international change, and against all forms of subservience, hegemony, and bargaining on the rights of sovereignty and liberation.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command

Algeria

Education Ministry, FLN Statement on Strike

LD1502114690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Following the teachers' strike, a statement was issued in Algeria yesterday evening by the Ministry of Education.

It says: The education sector was surprised on 6 February by a call for a strike which was not preceded by a request for talks. This occurred while the ministry continued to express its readiness to talk to all those concerned on the education issues within the program to which the government committed itself before the National People's Assembly. The program stresses in particular the democracy of education, improving the pedagogic content and quality, and linking education to the needs and aspirations of the country.

The statement says: Within this framework, the government calls for improving the situation of the education family within the limits of the available resources.

The statement adds: It is sufficient to recall that the government has allocated this year, within the education laws, an increase of 125 billion centimes out of a total of 200 billion centimes for the whole civil service.

The Ministry of Education's statement concludes by saying: The Ministry of Education calls on the strikers to resume work and stresses anew that solving the problems of the education family requires the continued deep study of the problems of the sector, giving special attention to the role played by the basic education teachers. Basic education is the pillar of the education structure, and giving basic education what it needs, rehabilitating its status, opening up promotion prospects for its teachers, and utilizing their expertise is essential.

In spite of its problems, the basic school is an important gain for the people which should not be exposed to more disturbances and we should not open the door for any setbacks by strikes whose continuation is unjustified. At the same time, we should commit ourselves to solving the problems of the sector within the limits imposed by the country's resources, and we should all have the will to talk to each other in order to protect the interests of the sector without any violation of the law or violation of [word indistinct].

On the other hand, the gathering which the national union for basic education called came two days after the news communique issued by the Ministry of Education and the education and training sector of the central union. The communique called on the teachers to resume work after the two sides had resolved the existing disputes. However, the slogans raised at that gathering pointed out that the teachers have rejected their law in form and essence and that the grassroots withdrew their confidence from the education sector officials. [passage omitted]

The National Liberation Front [FLN] issued yesterday a statement about the strike in the education sector. The statement says:

The education sectors in the province of Algiers and some other provinces have witnessed strikes which have been continuing for several days. Because of this, the FLN is convinced that the solution to the social and professional problems of the workers in the education sector is linked to reforming this sector. The FLN would like everyone to adopt a reasonable path of dialogue in order to find solutions.

The FLN stresses that resorting to the right to strike, especially in the education sector, should be the last resort to defend their demands. This is because the first to be harmed by the strike are the pupils whom we must look after and care for.

The FLN considers that the teachers' high sense of responsibility must seek a final solution rather than resorting to unlimited strike, especially during these difficult circumstances in our country.

FLN To Hold Emergency Session 20-22 Feb

LD1302075190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] We have learned the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee will hold an emergency session 20-22 February. The draft agenda of this session includes the following four [as heard] points: the application of the resolutions of the extraordinary conference; the preparation of the Front's strategy in the forthcoming municipal and wilaya elections; and the preparation of a general ground for the unification of the popular energies. At the first session of the Central Commitee the convening of the forthcoming emergency session was decided at the request of some members for holding a general discussion of the political, economic, social, and cultural situation in the country and to emerge with a unified conception with regard to the aims and the means.

Cabinet Discusses, Adopts Trade Union Bill

LD1302235290 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Four draft bills were discussed or adopted by the cabinet today, two of which completed the two last bills concerning labor. A report on state aid to political associations and a briefing by the foreign minister on the results of the Tunis Maghreb summit were given. [passage omitted]

The cabinet adopted a draft bill concerning unions' rights, which in accordance with the implementation of Article 53 of the Constitution gives the right to workers

and employers to organize themselves in distinct union organizations to defend their professional, material, or moral interests, and to group themselves, if they wish, into confederations or federations. In this context the draft bill defines the modalities of organization, expression, and practice of the union right through a democratic dialogue between workers. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Further Comment, Israeli Reaction to Bus Attack

Possibility of Israeli Role Viewed

JN1502173290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Feb 90 p 19

[Article carried on weekly "National Dialogue" page: "Why Not the Mosad?"]

[Text] In following the world media's large-scale coverage of the attack on the Israeli tourists' bus in Egypt last week, it is very surprising to see the snap conclusions reached in the news reports and analyses on the incident. The news reports and analyses are inclined to accuse the Palestinians as perpetrators, in unjustified anticipation of the investigations being carried out by competent Egyptian organs in an enormous effort that deserves appreciation. Such conclusions should not place any obstacles in the way of these efforts.

It is obvious that these continuous accusations bring with them clear political significance which the Israeli media—and the Western media in general—immediately succeeded in playing up in an attempt to harm the Palestinian liberation movement and its relations with Egypt which are going through their best phase right now.

The reason for the surprise is that those who came to these conclusions have no evidence that the perpetrators have any real connection with the Palestinian struggle. Even if the investigations prove that the perpetrators are really of Palestinian origin, the responsibility for their actions must not be placed on the Palestinian people's struggle. Among all peoples in the world there are extremists and outlaws; this is axiomatic.

When we speak about oppressed people who are deprived of their basic rights, not only political but also human rights, the emergence of extremism and violence cannot be understood and cannot be explained other than as individual behavior.

It is known that the Palestinian struggle put a decisive end to this kind of behavior in the early seventies, and followed it up with a very clear condemnation. The PLO has unequivocally reiterated this condemnation many times. In fact, it is noted that the present stage of the Palestinian struggle is marked by a reduction in legitimate armed violence directed at Israel's military actions. The intifadah has opened new civilian horizons for this struggle. Over the past two years, the intifadah has maintained its civilian nature and its strugglers have refrained from using arms in keeping with the PLO's instructions. Despite this, Israeli intransigence makes the Palestinians feel despair, and this thus leads to illegitimate practices. However, these practices remain within the bounds of individual behavior.

This is an acceptable explanation. However, since we are talking about explanations, it is possible that there was an Israeli hand behind the incident, inasmuch as Israel is its first beneficiary, in the hopes that the act would place a new obstacle in the way of ongoing efforts to reach a political settlement. This will remain a possibility even if the aboveboard investigations prove that the perpetrators of the incident are of Palestinian nationality. Nothing would prevent certain Israelis, whose records include the planting of bombs among Iraqi Jews to force them to emigrate to Israel, from recruiting Palestinians to carry out this act to obstruct the peace process and harm the PLO and its relations with Egypt. In this case, the talk will be about mercenaries, and it will then all be the same whether the perpetrators are Palestinians, Israelis, or others. This is a fact known in international terrorist networks known to be multinational.

Israelis Trying To Kill Assailants

JN1502200690 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Cairo—A senior Egyptian Interior Ministry official has told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the Egyptian security authorities at the crossing point in the Rafah area in the past few days prevented several Israeli intelligence officers from entering Egyptian territory. The Israeli officers tried to enter Egyptian territory as Israeli tourists. The official explained that following the Ismailia operation, more than 20 Israeli intelligence officers have tried to enter through the Rafah crossing point as tourists. However, the Egyptian security authorities managed to expose them and stopped them. The official explained that the Israeli officers intended to enter Egypt and search for those who carried out the attack against the Israeli tourists in order to murder them.

The Egyptian official said that a few days ago Egypt rejected an Israeli offer for joint security cooperation. He added that the offer was made by the Israeli war ministry at the instruction of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The Israeli war ministry had proposed that the Israeli intelligence services be charged with dealing with the bus attack, including the arrest of its perpetrators.

The official asserted that the Egyptian authorities firmly rejected this offer, and pointed out that Egypt had previously rejected several Israeli offers for joint security cooperation.

AL-AKHBAR Editor on Incident

JN1102084090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sa'id Sunbul: "The Sea of Hatred"]

[Text] The attack on the bus carrying Israeli tourists on the Ismailia road is, in fact, not a new or unusual incident. Similar acts of terrorism have been carried out in France, Britain, Austria, Germany, and in other European and non-European states. Moreover, a similar incident occurred in the heart of Israel itself when a Palestinian citizen killed a bus driver. The bus turned over and several Israeli passengers were killed. So, the incident itself does not cause astonishment. It also must not disturb us in Egypt although it pains us and makes us wonder: Why have they chosen Egypt as the stage for the attack?

Simply and briefly, they have chosen Egypt to carry out this operation to undermine Egyptian peace efforts. They want to torpedo the efforts being made to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully. They have chosen Egypt to tarnish it's reputation in the international arena in an attempt to force it to turn its back on the Palestinians and the Palestine question. However, Egypt was as usual, clear, resolute, and great. It condemned and denounced the attack. At the same time, it announced that it will not abandon its efforts to achieve peace in the region.

There have been various Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian reactions, some of which were nervous and hysterical and called for retaliation, while other reactions were reasonable and called for ignoring the incident to foil the objectives of the elements that planned and perpetrated it. Others, however, declined to adopt a clear and frank stand. The PLO issued a statement on the incident. I had hoped that the PLO would come out stronger and clearer regarding its condemnation of terrorism, especially since the PLO had earlier renounced terrorism and announced that it rejects such methods. Had it done so, it would have checked the attempts of Sharon and others, who falsely accuse it of being a terrorist organization. Moreover, it would have gained more on the international level.

I had expected, or in fact hoped, that the PLO statement would denounce the attack being carried out on Egypt's territory—Egypt that supported the Palestine question more than anyone else, and sacrificed more than any onee for the sake of the Palestinians. Regrettably, the PLO statement did not mention this. In fact, the statement pointed to the possibility that the incident may have been carried out by Egyptians!

If the innocent bus passengers were the victims of extremist and terrorist Palestinian elements, or any other party claiming Palestinian credentials at the same time, they are the victims of the extremist and intransigent Israeli policy. This policy is the one that created hatred, violence, and terrorism in the region, and encouraged the establishment of extremist and terrorist movements. The Israeli leadership will be mistaken if it believes that resorting to extremism and intransigence would end such acts or attacks. On the contrary, this will breed further violence and kill more innocent victims.

Peace is the solution to all these problems and to all the region's problems. Reason says: Adhere to peace prospects and do not waste them so that the region will not turn into a sea of hatred in which all sides, without exception, will drown.

Columnist Criticizes PLO

JN1302220590 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Feb 90 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "This is our Destiny"]

[Text] We were not surprised by the joy of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command over the criminal operation carried out by Palestinian terrorists on Egyptian soil. We were not shocked by the eagerness of the bold hero Ahmad Jibril to admit his terrorist clique's responsibility for that crime, which violated the Egyptian people's sovereignty over their own soil! We were not astonished by the fact that another terrorist organization known as "Islamic Jihad" also rushed to announce its responsibility for the crime! Nor were we surprised by the fact that the "great struggler" Ahmad Jibril denied what he had boastfully announced previously and that he now absolves his terrorist clique of responsibility for the operation, although he expressed his joy and support for what the Jihad organization had done!

None of this has surprised, shocked, astonished, or annoyed us! We have become accustomed to all these positions—and others—from the brave strugglers, who have abandoned their people and their cause and who are deeply angered by those who support the cause they have abandoned!

Since the Arab-Israeli conflict started, these people have adopted one firm position despite the change of people and names! They carry Palestinian identity but their actions backfire to injure the Palestine cause. They are strugglers in words, fedayeen in abuses, nationalists in slogans, cowards in their escape, big in their big mouths, and small in their sacrifice.

It has been said that one does not travel the wrong road twice, but we continue to travel that road and commit that mistake thousands of times. This is our destiny, this is our fate in this world, and it is something we cannot get rid of whether we want to or not!

When we complained to the PLO's leadership in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, its leader Yasir 'Arafat shared our sorrow and settled our excitement by condemning the

irresponsible positions of the Palestinian people's enemies, who claim that they speak for the people and act with their support!

We still accept these excuses and interpretations in good faith, and we did not want the moderate man to carry more than he could. We are also still ignoring their continued insults to Egypt, their mean attack on its people, and their vulgar attempts to cast doubts on the credibility of its policy—not because we are weak, but because we believe that the overwhelming majority of the fraternal Palestinian people support us and bless all our efforts to regain their lost rights.

Therefore, we were not shocked or astonished by the joy these brave men expressed immediately after the announcement of that criminal operation, which was planned and carried out by them in Egyptian territory.

On the contrary, we expected their joy and gloating over us! If they had not shown that joy, we would have been deeply surprised!

The real shock, regrettably, came from the PLO when we heard the strange and weak statement issued by its leadership on the criminal operation! We expected Yasir 'Arafat to show anger over the incident, to fly to Cairo immediately and announce to the world his personal condemnation, and that of the Palestinian people for whom he speaks, of the criminal operation!

We expected the Palestinian president to come to Egypt and express his deep regret to its people about what had been done by Palestinian terrorists, over whom he has no control, against the Egyptian people. We thought that if Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] failed to visit Cairo because of his numerous recent engagements, he would not hesitate to issue a statement in his own voice condemning that act of terrorism and violation of Egypt's sovereignty, and announcing his determination to help the Egyptian security authorities uncover the Palestinian terrorists and the party that planned the criminal operation against the Egyptian people—who support the Palestinian people.

None of this has happened. Even stranger is the silly and weak statement issued by the PLO leadership asking us not to separate this incident from events in the occupied Palestinian territories—whether the perpetrators are Palestinians or not!

No Abu-'Ammar. The writer of that silly statement was not tactful and courteous, and I do not believe that you did not see and approve it before it was released. Once again, we have to console ourselves and repeat what we say every time we are attacked: This is our destiny and this is our tragedy.

U.S., USSR Policies Faulted on Immigration

JN1502195390 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Feb 90 p 5

[Editorial: "We Want Action, Not Hollow Statements"]

[Text] Tel Aviv has recently initiated suspect moves, and was joined by the two superpowers, to liquidate the Palestinian cause by erasing the Palestinian identity. Rather than restituting rights to those they belong to as an unavoidable means to establish peace in the Middle East, Yitzhaq Shamir has devised another means whereby Palestinian land is seized and its indigenous population expelled to be supplanted by Jews arriving from the Soviet Union.

With the peace efforts advancing at a snail's pace, surreptitious efforts are advancing swiftly to steal occupied Palestinian land. In the meantime, both the United States and the USSR are limiting themselves to expressing opposition to the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but are taking no action to halt a crime without precedent in history.

Attempting to clear itself of the role of accomplice in this terrible crime, Moscow argues that under the Soviet Constitution every citizen is entitled to leave the country whenever he wishes. We have no quarrel with this entitlement as a basic human right. However, we would like to see parallel action on behalf of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people lest Soviet Jews be settled in Palestinian land and Palestinians be expelled from their ancestral homeland before their problem is solved.

If U.S. and Soviet utterances are genuine about support for Palestinian rights as enshrined in UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, these two countries have to take prompt action before the crime that Shamir has plotted by Shamir comes to fruition and the world is confronted with a new fait accompli that would further exacerbate the situation.

Columnist Criticizes Israel for Remarks on Media

JN1302200590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Feb 90 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The rulers of Israel are furious with the Egyptian press. They say the Egyptian press is launching a campaign of hatred against Israel and urging the Egyptians to hate Israel. Surely, we do not know what the Egyptian press is required to say. Should the Egyptian press change the monkey into a deer, turn Dracula into a handsome boy, or lie to itself and to the people? What can the Egyptian press say? Should it say that the Israeli occupation army is shooting roses on the children in occupied Palestine? Should it say that the Israeli occupation army is spraying women in occupied Palestine with cologne? Should it say that the Israeli occupation army is demolishing old houses owned by Palestinians to build villas and gardens for them? Should it say that the Israeli occupation army is taking the Palestinian youths on a vacation inside the detention camps?

What is the Egyptian press required to say? We could have lied when the press was operated through levers controlled by the official in charge of the media who was

able to pull a lever to make us abuse one country, and press another to make us curse a certain leader. Ten days later, a reconciliation would take place, and the abuse levers would turn into commendation buttons. Then, the Egyptian press was only a toy, representing nobody, believed by nobody, and recognized by nobody. It was enough that a reconciliation took place at the leadership level to make the press listen and obey orders. But things have changed now. A writer can write in the national papers freely and without guidance. The opposition papers are not subjected to any censorship. If the national papers are blamed for having editors in chief appointed by the government, the government does not appoint editors in chief for the opposition papers. However, the appointed chief editor cannot prevent or amend an opinion. Undoubtedly, this picture is unusual for Israel, and the Soviet Union as well.

There are signs and indications that cannot be understood by the rulers of Israel. However, all these indications assert that the Egyptian press enjoys a freedom of expression. For example, all the Egyptian papers have been unanimous about the necessity and importance of Arab relations with Egypt, but they disagreed over means and persons. All Egyptian papers have been unanimous about peace, and absolutely agreed that what Israel is doing is against peace. Israel can ask itself whether it has offered anything for peace since al-Sadat went to Jerusalem. Lebanon was invaded after the peace treaty. A part of the Golan Heights was annexed after peace. Jerusalem was annexed after peace. The building of settlements has increased after peace. And the Iraqi nuclear reactor and Tunisia were raided after peace.

The rulers of Israel should read what the Israeli papers write against Egypt before they make their impossible demand of imposing censorship on the Egyptian papers. Before asking the Egyptian papers to lie and beautify Israel's ugly face, Israel should do something for peace which can be mentioned by the Egyptian papers. The PLO has offered peace and requested dialogue, and Israel continues to bargain over the composition of the Palestinian delegation, although Yasir 'Arafat has offered the impossible for Israel and the world through the Cairo and Geneva declarations.

We only publish facts reported by the U.S. news agencies from the occupied territory without change or modification. We cannot hide or ignore these facts. Had Israel acted only once for the sake of peace, we would have mentioned that as reported to us by the news media. If they want us to lie for Israel, they are requesting the impossible because we do not lie for Egypt; we tell the truth about what the Egyptian Government does, and we express our opinion about everything. Is it reasonable that we rightfully criticize the Egyptian Government and then lie to beautify Israel? This is illogical, impossible, and unthinkable.

Palestinians Cautioned Not To Abuse Generosity

JN1102124190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: "Egypt Will Not Go Back; Nor Will It Be Lenient. Yes, Israel Is Not Enthusiastic Over Peace, But Do the Palestinians Who Are Always Fighting Want a Solution?"]

[Text] Israel's government is intransigent; there is no doubt about it. Moreover, Shamir is a hardhead who still wrongly believes that the policy of "rejection" is the shortest way to reach a solution. Israeli political leaders want peace, but also fear it at the same time. All parties realize well the gravity of the intifadah, although they support oppression, arrogance, and "bone-breaking" in dealing with the heroes of the intifadah. All this, of course, drove the point home in the Arabs' minds that from its birth, Israel has drawn a plan and is determined to carry it out no matter how long it takes, and that the talk about peace bandied about by some of its leaders is only aimed at obfuscation. The Arabs may be excused for their apprehension, but they are not moving; and even when they move, it is unilaterally and slowly, which encourages Israel to further implement its plans. As for the world's public opinion, it is now by all standards against Israel. For, most peoples do not find a justification for the hard-line policy Israel is bent on in terms of the peace efforts. Meanwhile, Israel has always been the one to shout asking for protection in order not to be thrown "into the sea."

The position of the Palestinians, on the other hand, is not cause for optimism. The reason is that they are split into conflicting groups and factions. The Arabs who are concerned about the Palestine issue, for example, are always eager to assert that the PLO is the sole, primary, and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that this situation is the best, so as not to waste efforts or give the other side a chance to find a gap that might enable it to escape or make up excuses.

However, the situation in fact is different. For, in addition to the PLO, there are the Islamic Jihad Organization, the Force 17 Organization,the al-Sa'iqah Organization, the Black September Organization, the June Organization, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The strange thing is that each one of these organizations has its leadership, its independent way of thinking, and its style in dealing with the Palestine issue. Furthermore, there are leaders inside the PLO itself who are rivalling PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, either covertly or publicly. There is Salah Khalaf, whose pseudonym is Abu-Iyad; Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal; Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, alias Abu-al-Hawl; Ahmad 'Afanah, alias al-Mu'tasim; Sa'd Sa'il, alias Abu-al-Walid; and Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu-Jihad, who was martyred at his house in Tunisia. Concerning the latter's death, the fingers of suspicion—up to now—point to Palestinian elements, said to have been specially trained, and who

planned his assasination in his office as he was writing a statement to the youths of the intifadah in the West Bank.

Yasir 'Arafat might be a man of good intentions who can be swayed easily when any one of the aforementioned completely contradicts his wishes and plans. Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] on many occasions makes a move which is soon "condemned" or severely criticized by Abu-Iyad or Abu-al-Hawl. Consequently, Abu-'Ammar is surprised by what happens. And when he meets with one or both, they start giving "naive" excuses which he quickly accepts, and things go back to normal.

Abu-Nidal is still considered one of the members of the PLO; however, his relations with 'Arafat have worsened to the extent that they cannot be remedied. The question is: Can the PLO chairman face Abu-Nidal or take him to task? Of course, the answer is no; all the PLO's members know this. Therefore, we can say that the world's view of Israel or the Palestinians has become one. For, if Israel is not enthusiastic over the solution, the Palestinians also do not want it. The proof is the conflicting stands and the rivalry among leaders. This is the weak point Shamir capitalizes on when he reiterates that the PLO does not represent all the Palestinians.

At any rate, if the Palestinians are skilled in the art of "settling scores" among themselves, or can find assassination easy in order to silence someone if they feel that he's got more than he deserves, or fear that he might be an instrument of threat for the benefit of others, we say: "They are free to do whatever they like." But, to come to Egypt and take advantage of its magnanimity, chivalry, and excessive generosity in order to practice a reckless behavior that violates the law is something that we will not allow nor accept, and it will not go unpunished.

Egypt is concerned with the Palestine issue more than they are. At least, we do not find one among us who says "I am a struggler," the way they boast about. The real stage of struggle is, in fact, that which Egypt has taken part in—through what it possesses of men, funds, and equipment. Moreover, we do not claim as they do that the intifadah was sparked from outside [the occupied territories]. In fact, we recognize the facts and say that the Arabs of the occupied territories are the real heroes who have spontaneously pushed forward, attacking Israelis with stones, upholding the banners of disobedience, and deliberately suspending means of production to deprive the Israelis of a revenue that the Israelis do not deserve.

Egypt also believes in the principle of peace as a means and as an end. For, without peace there can be be no security in the Middle East, and the shadow of war will continue to hound its peoples forever. Therefore, Egypt's principles will not be changed by an accidental occurrence or a plotted crime because Egypt can, by virtue of its capabilities as a state, handle any delinquent whatever his nature may be. We reiterate: No alternative for peace. No leniency for any bandit who tries to spread corruption in the land of Egypt.

Defense Minister Receives UAE Commander

NC1502141390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0853 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—This morning General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, received Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] air force and air defense commander, who is currently visiting Egypt within the delegation accompanying UAE President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. During the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen military cooperation and war production within the framework of the good relations between the peoples of the two countries and between leaders Husni Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid.

Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, also received Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Zayid. They discussed the existing cooperation between the two countries and exchange of experts and joint training.

'Abd-Al-Majid Departs for Baghdad 15 Feb

NC1502165690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Baghdad this afternoon to participate in the ceremony marking the Arab Cooperation Council's first anniversary. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Letter to Athens Peace Conference

LD1202154590 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, February 12 JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has stressed that in the absence of both peace and sovereignty of law and in connection with the law of the jungle, Italy attacked the Libyan Arab people taking it by surprise occupying its land by force. The Italians hanged the Libyans and installed concentration camps to liquidate the Libyuans en masse. Thousands of these people, men, women and children, were banished dying in Italian prisons. Some of those still alive are still living in banishment. Their kinsmen still don't know their whereabouts.

In his letter to the delegates meeting in a conference on peace held in Athens currently, the leader of the revolution has called upon not repeating such a tragedy against peace-loving peoples calling also upon conscientious

peoples worldwide to put an end to the sufferings of many peoples afflicted with colonialism violating their sovereignty. Such peoples are spearheaded by the Palestinian Arab people.

He has called upon these peoples to make every endeavour to eliminate foreign bases worldwide oppressing these peoples. He has called upon showing respect to the humanity of 25 million blacks in America, 80 million Indians and 25 [figure as received] blacks in South Africa and many millions of people in occupied Arab lands invaded by racist Zionism, apart from showing respect to the natural rights of man putting a stop to their violation at the hands of the forces of oppression and exploitation.

He has stressed that the sacred rights of man represented in his sweat giving him his right to self-determination, freeing him from the bondage of wages, lifting representation off his shoulder, cancelling the language of force and arms, economic sanctions, terrorism and intimidation.

He has called upon reforming the world on new bases—the Jamahiri ones whereby governments are replaced by people's congresses and committees, the [words indistinct] partners replacing the one of wage-workers which is based on exploitation, the order of people's defence in lieu of armies, people's security instead of police. He has called upon concentrating the efforts of mankind in their entirety towards purging the environment and safeguarding it, combatting the devastating diseases, securing food for all mankind.

He has maintained that the transformation of the world to the basis of the masses will achieve peace eternally based on humanitarian foundations, not on horrible nuclear deterrent.

Meanwhile, the delegates to this conference have decided to make this letter one of the documents of this conference.

JANA Editor Comments on Soviet Jews' Emigration

LD1102193490 Tripoli JANA in English 1738 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 11 JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine is continuing these days as Zionist occupiers are preparing for them further settlements and land from which its real owners have been expelled and deported out of their homeland Palestine.

The political editor of JANA commented on this flow of Soviet Jews to occupied Arab Palestine. He said 'the emigration of Jews to occupied Palestine will contribute to the entrenchment of Zionist occupation of this land. [quotation marks as received] Also it will provide further opportunity to the United States to grant more economic and military assistance to the Zionists in addition to the usual political support.

The editor asserted that this emigration will undoubtedly be at the expense of the real owners of Palestine. He made clear that whatever the justifications of the Soviet decision, the aim of America and world Zionism is to effect fundamental and radical changes to the demography of the region and the distribution of its inhabitants. The editor noted that the American stance banning the entry of Soviet Jews to the United States comes within the context of the American Zionist strategy aimed at the settlement of the highest number of naked Jewish Europeans in Palestine in a bid to consolidate Zionist occupation of Palestine. It also aims, he added, at slandering Arab Soviet relations the aim which America conceals so as to set it as a trap to embroil the Soviet policy in the region.

The political editor reaffirmed 'the coming of naked European Jews to the oven of history is in itself a crime against those Jews who became a tool in the hands of the international Zionist movement whose cancer spread into the body of a number of countries especially the major powers. [quotation marks as received]

The editor recalled the proposal put forward by the leader of the revolution at the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade during which he submitted a tangible and humanitarian solution to the problem of the Jews in the world. The leader pointed out then that should there be a need for setting up a state for those Jews there are many appropriate alternatives amongst those alternatives are the Baltic Republics in the Soviet Union where there [are] many Jews at present and where they had set up in the past a state for themselves called the Khazar Kingdom. Also, it is possible to transfer those Jews to the Alsace and Lorraine on the French and German borders and which has always been an area of conflict and dispute between the two countries and caused two world wars.

However, if America is so keen, the editor added, to care for the Jews in the world and would like them to have a state with recognized defined borders, she should given them the region of Alaska and with the huge resources available to America she is able to execute this proposal or project.

The editor pointed out 'those who are drawing blatant hostile schemes against the Arab nation and greater homeland, in fact they are ignoring in a strange manner the awareness of the Arab masses and their legitimate ownership of the land of Palestine and believing wrongly that these masses are unaware of their historial, spiritual and territorial right in Palestine. [quotation marks as received]

The editor stressed that the enemies, however they may deal in their instant methods with symbols who do not represent the legitimacy of that sacred national struggle, the liberation of Palestine, in fact, is the responsibilty of all citizens of the Arab nation from the Ocean to the Gulf regardless of the time it takes; and those who are trying to play on the string of personal interests and the

interests of their states are falling into a fatal mistake and would only put the future interests of their countries at risk for the future will only be on the side of the citizens of this nation and it is they who will determine, according to fine standards, their future and methods to deal with others. All dangerous schemes hatched against this nation, at present, will be in vain and doomed.

Agreement Signed With Cuban Assembly Delegation

LD1302152590 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 13, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday in Tripoli, a protocol on joint cooperation was concluded between the General People's Congress and the Cuban National Assembly. This was done on concluding a visit by the Cuban delegation to Great al-Jamahiryah.

The protocol was signed by the assistant secretary of the above congress and the vice-speaker of the Cuban Assembly.

The protocol stipulates the establishment of a friendship group between the two countries comprising members of this Libyan congress and the Cuban Assembly working for promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries.

[Words indistinct] includes coordination of efforts between the two countries at international forums in a manner reinforcing the common struggle waged by the progressive forces worldwide against imperialism.

It has been pointed out to promote joint cooperation between the Union of Producers in Great al-Jamahiryah and the Workers' Union in Cuba. [sentence as received] Apart from exchanging intellectual publications furthering the scientific and cultural cooperation between the academic establishments between the two countries.

The Cuban delegation has visited Great al-Jamahiryah at the invitation of the General People's Congress to witness the direct democracy applied in Great al-Jamahiryah in connection with the Third Universal Theory.

The Cuban delegation paid field visits to a number of projects and areas in Great al-Jamahiryah.

Meanwhile, the vice-speaker of the Cuban National Assembly Mr. A. Suarez, on concluding this protocol, has expressed his great admiration over the material and moral achievements accomplished for the Libyan Arab people thanks to the Great al-Fateh Revolution lauding the distinctive relations between Great al-Jamahiryah and Cuba. He has stressed that his country stands alongside Great al-Jamahiryah in one trench to confront all imperialist plots.

World Peace Council Chooses Vice President

LD1102201890 Tripoi JANA in English 1848 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Athens, al-Nawwar [February] 11, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Jamahiriyah was chosen as vice president of the World Peace Council, the final communique of the council said today in Greece.

'Source' Denies Toxic Gas Production Allegations

LD1102151490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Feb (JANA)—A responsible source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has denied allegations recently carried by the German magazine DER SPIEGEL to the effect that Libya has produced quantities of toxic gas.

In a reply to a question by JANA, the source said that this report is completely untrue, and that it comes in the framework of the tendencious allegations that certain dubious information quarters have become accustomed to repeat now and again.

Sudan

RCC's Khalifah Discusses Regional Issues

PM1202090890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 90 p 4

[Interview with Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the national dialogue conference on peace in Sudan, by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi in Brussels; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Yahyawi] What is the framework of your European visit?

[Khalifah] My visit lies within the framework of explaining the resolutions adopted by the national dialogue conference on peace in Sudan, which we are working to convey to the whole world, and especially the EC states. We attach great importance to Europe's political weight, which is why we have explained to them the truth about what is happening in Sudan. It was necessary to come to this region to explain the resolutions adopted by the national peace conference to government officials and to governmental and nongovernmental organizations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Yahyawi] Following the Sudanese Government's adoption of the resolutions of the national conference on peace in Sudan, what has been the Garang movement's response to that initiative, and what does the movement propose as an alternative with a view to establishing peace in Sudan?

[Khalifah] As you know, the two conferences decided that the Sudanese identity is Sudanese citizenship, and that anyone can hold the highest political position,

irrespective of religion, race, or social status. As for the culture question, since Sudan is a vast country and embraces numerous cultures, every group or tribe can maintain its culture. The state will protect and provide for them. As for the religious issue, the fundamental rule is: "Let there be no compulsion in religion" [Koranic verse]. Everyone can preserve and bring up his children in his own religion, without compulsion. With regard to legislation and the public law governing Sudan, it is derived from the Islamic Shari'ah and customary law, which together form the basic source of legislation, with Muslims deriving their laws from the Islamic Shari'ah and non-Muslims deriving their laws from customary laws. Under the federal system each province can exempt itself from any laws that it regard as religious in nature. I believe that these points have constituted the movement's spearhead, but these points were accepted by the brothers who participated in the national dialogue conference. Then the National Salvation Revolution espoused them. Then we asked them: What more do you want after that?

At the Nairobi meeting the Garang movement accepted the national dialogue conference resolutions, but linked their implementation to the abolition of the joint defense agreements between Sudan and Egypt and between Sudan and Libya. We believe that such demands affect national sovereignty, are impossible, and have absolutely nothing to do with the war problem in Sudan.

[Al-Yahyawi] You accused Ethiopia of supporting the Garang movement. Recently there has been much talk about Israeli aid to Ethiopia to build dams on the Blue Nile, which would water supplies to both Sudan and Egypt. Do you believe that relations between you and Ethiopia are likely to suffer further tension?

[Khalifah] Ethiopia is playing a big game. I see a contradiction in Ethiopia's policy. What brings an Ethiopian Marxist, communist together with an Israeli unless there are elements of evil? I think that Ethiopia has actually reached the stage of calling for help, like someone who is drowning and clings to any straw to save his life. This is why Ethiopia has turned to Israel, which has big ambitions and wants to encircle Sudan—not Sudan as such, but its Arab, African, and Islamic role. Israel is playing that role to extend its influence and to control the waterway, that is, the Red Sea. So far it has been able to leave its imprint on the Dahlak Archipelago in the middle of the Red Sea. The Arab nation must realize that. Brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir calls on the Arab foreign ministers to express a united assessment of the danger which is about to descend upon the entire Arab nation.

Undoubtedly there is a great danger to the sources of the Blue Nile. Billions of cubic meters of water which are supposed to go to Sudan and Egypt will go to Ethiopia. But we will be lying in wait for these actions. We will also employ all our political means and take a unified Arab stand in order to spare the Arab nation that sudden threat.

[Al-Yahyawi] What stage have the plans for the Ethiopian dams reached? It has been reported that 40 draft plans are ready and that Israel may be asked to carry them out.

[Khalifah] True, there is a plan. We in Sudan are keeping a close watch. Sudanese newspapers recently published details of the four dams situated in Ethiopian areas on the Blue Nile. But we can besiege all these actions by uniting as a single Arab nation and by informing the entire world of the danger threatening the Nile's sources. There must be a committee comprising all the states benefiting from the Nile's sources—namely, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. These states must sit down together to determine the green and red lines, because the Nile's sources are vital, and from them people drink. As you know, water is the lifeline, so none of the Nile states must set up dams without consulting the other states. Even the known international laws say this, so that no state will control other states.

Official Confirms Federal System Implementation

EA1002112890 Khartoum SUNA in English 0913 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 9 (SUNA)—Member of the Revolution Command Council Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman yesterday confirmed that work is being conducted for the gradual implementation of the federal government system in Sudan. Col. Sulayman, who is the official spokesman for the Command Council, said this year is regarded as the "federal government year."

Speaking to SUNA Col. Sulayman said the political and technical committees are currently embarked on reviewing the implementation of the federal system in the Sudan. He said the recent tour by Command Council Chairman General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir to the central regions and the massive welcome he received "confirm the masses' support for the revolution." Col. Sulayman has hailed the central regions in experiment of the popular committees.

Gen al-Bashir has last week toured several towns in the central region where he received a massive welcome by hundreds of thousands of people during the four-day tour which took him to [name indistinct] central region among other areas. Gen al-Bashir also visited the agricultural schemes of Faw and Manaqil. He told the masses there that production is the first step for national salvation."

Al-Bashir said without increase of production there would not be development in the country. His call was favorably responded to by the masses.

Ethiopian Government, Rebels Discuss Famine Relief

EA1102130590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1000 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—Negotiations are underway between the Ethiopian Government, the Eritrean resistance movements, and the international relief organisations to come to an agreement on transporting relief supplies to the needy people inside Ethiopia via Mitsiwa port, said Refugees Commissioner Brig (rtd) Abd al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim.

The commissioner, quoted by the daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH," published today, (?was) reminding that the delay in relieving the affected people in Ethiopia would increase the influx of refugees into Sudan. He stated that the deteriorated security situation and famine anticipations at the Ethiopia regions adjoining the Sudan's eastern border were the main causes behind the overflow of refugees into Sudan.

Political Detainees Freed in Darfur Region

EA1302194090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1009 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Fashir, 13 Feb (SUNA)—The government of Darfur Region has been directed by the high security committee in Khartoum to free a number of political detainees held in Shala Prison in this western Sudan town, the military governor of the region announced here yesterday. The government said, in a press statement, the move comes in the context of the revolution's principle not to punish anyone for his previous political leaning unless he commits a hostile act against the present government

Karrar Appointed to Council of Ministers

EA1102183090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The decrees of the council of ministers: Decree Number 114 for 1990. In exercise of the provisions of the third constitutional decree and in an endeavor to perfect the coordination between the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers in the fields of policies and economic measures, the appointment of naval Staff Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, member at the Council of Ministers, is decreed. Issued under my signature, 10 February 1990.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, prime minister

Kuwait

Prime Minister Comments on Dialogue, Parliament

JN1602103690 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
14 Feb 90 p 1

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, by Muhammad Jasim al-Saqr—date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Saqr] Your Highness the Heir Apparent. The former members of Parliament who met with you say the meeting was very successful and that one of the causes of its success was your highness's eagerness to make it a success. Your remark that you did not object to the request for a meeting over lunch if it was a "special motion" made a good impression on the deputies. They even wondered what they could offer Shaykh Sa'd in return to facilitate conducting the dialogue after you expressed your desire and eagerness to make the meeting a success. Can we hear your comment?

[Sa'd] Naturally, we support the principle of dialogue referred to by his highness the amir in his speech. Our meetings with various segments of citizens of various ages will continue, no matter how long they take and regardless of the special efforts they demand. Indeed, such meetings require great efforts. All the brothers who took part in parliamentary life from 1962 to 1985 will take part in these meetings, and I will listen to them in this dialogue. I should stress all those with whom I met since the beginning of this mission support the dialogue formula, because it is the wise path toward the future. We do not believe in, and reject, any other alternative.

Purposeful, constructive dialogue must continue. Give it the time it deserves. As I heard from the brothers I met with; there is no disagreement about the principle of dialogue and continuing to seek the formula that will spare this country disputes and strife. We are proceeding toward dialogue and anything else.

[Al-Saqr] Does Your Highness have a preconception of the dialogue itself, or will you form your conception after hearing all opinions?

[Sa'd] We had the 1976 and 1986 experiences. There were causes and reasons for the failure of the two experiences. This is a reality. After the 1986 experience, we must be careful and continue the dialogue to reach the suitable formula for us.

[Al-Saqr] Do you believe reaching a comprehensive agreement outside the Constitution is possible, especially since the majority of the parties want to work according to the Constitution? Do you believe the Constitution issue is the obstacle? Can the Constitution issue be overcome and an agreement reached on a national charter, for example, that is based on the existing articles of the Constitution through dialogue, consensus, public eagerness, and a public formula?

[Sa'd] I cannot specify the formula you mean. After deliberations, consultations, and dialogue with citizens of all types and ages, however, an appropriate formula can be reached.

Having had the 1976 and 1986 experiences, we must find a formula that spares our country any upheaval. We have the courage to find such a formula.

[Al-Saqr] Can we say if Parliament returned, the authority would not dissolve it again? In other words, does it want to avoid past mistakes?

[Sa'd] This is what the whole country says—that the dialogue must continue in order to determine the formula that will prevent another crisis in Kuwait.

[Al-Saqr] The deputies you met with were satisfied with the meeting. Was that satisfaction mutual?

[Sa'd] I said the meeting certainly was conducted in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere, and all sides showed a sincere desire to cooperate for the sake of Kuwait, which should come before anything else.

[Al-Saqr] Your Highness: Do you think a time limit should be fixed for the dialogue so it will not go on long?

[Sa'd] Let it go on long. It is in Kuwait's interest not to rush things.

[Al-Saqr] There are some people, however, who say Your Highness, who is very patient, would only listen and listen, and some fear this delay would lead the dialogue nowhere. So do you not think there is a need to fix a time limit for the dialogue?

[Sa'd] Is this delay just for the sake of delay, or do we delay in order to benefit? I will not confine the dialogue to the group that visited me during the last two weeks. There are large sectors of people who did not take part in the meetings, and a group of them will visit me tomorrow and the day after. My doors are open to all people, not just one group, and I meet all of them in their capacity as citizens.

[Al-Saqr] Can we say Your Highness will meet all members of the 1962 Constituent Assembly?

[Sa'd] Yes, I will meet all of them—the former speakers and former deputies—and all sectors of people, including popular societies, unions, and sports clubs. I will take my time to assess the pros and cons until I develop the idea. This is what the majority of people wants, and this is how we can shoulder our respective responsibilities.

[Al-Saqr] Your Highness: Is there an intention to formulate a national charter?

[Sa'd] This is the second time you have asked me about the national charter. You may have discussed it with others. I cannot propose any title now. Let us now talk about the formula that will bring about cooperation and protect Kuwait from any crisis.

[Al-Saqr] Your Highness: Will you continue the dialogue alone, or are you going to form a team to help you?

[Sa'd] I told you it may take some time, and I am fully prepared.

[Al-Saqr] What will be the principles for the dialogue's mechanism, or is it difficult to reveal anything about that to the press now? The citizens were very satisfied with the meeting you conducted with the former deputies.

[Sa'd] I am concerned for the unity of ranks and positions. I am also concerned not to give anyone the opportunity to interfere in our internal affairs. In view of what is going on now, we must adhere to the brotherly Kuwaiti style, which we agree on and is based on our traditions and values. We must not let anyone get involved, directly or indirectly, in our internal affairs. We discuss all of these things in brotherly meetings.

[Al-Saqr] The ordinary citizens were very satisfied with your meeting with the former deputies.

[Sa'd] God willing, these dialogues in the future will be conducted in a friendly, brotherly atmosphere and will show concern for the homeland's future and the citizens' interests. Following his highness the amir's directives, may God protect him, we are open to all constructive ideas and remarks made in a civilized manner.

Talks Conducted With Iran on Expertise Exchange

LD1302152190 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb. 13, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi and Kuwait's labor minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah here today reviewed prospects for exchanging expertise between Iran and Kuwait, and stressed the need for broadening their relations in that area.

About 30,000 of the total 100,000 Iranian immigrants in Kuwait are employed in professional and semi-professional areas in that country.

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives on Visit 13 Feb

LD1302200790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Riyadh at 1715 today on a visit to the Kingdom.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the reception of his brother His Majesty King Husayn on his arrival at King Khalid international airport. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal is accompanied by an official delegation, which includes Prime Minister Mudar Badran; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; Mr. Adnan Abu-Awdah, political adviser to His Majesty King Husayn; and Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Holds Talks With King Fahd

JN1402213290 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] His majesty the king and the Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a round of talks in al-Nasiriyah Palace in Riyadh today.

Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran; the chief of the Royal Court; his majesty's political adviser; the foreign minister; and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia attended. The Saudi crown prince and first deputy prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, and a number of senior Saudi officials attended on the Saudi side.

Further on Talks

JN1502085490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese situation and the Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel topped the subjects Jordan's King Husayn and Saudi King Fahd discussed in Riyadh. King Husayn left Riyadh yesterday after a 24-hour visit. 'Abdallah al-Shihri reports from the Saudi capital on the most important topics in the Fahd-Husayn summit:

[Begin recording] Talks by the two sides touched on the new Lebanese developments and how to end the tragic situation there. King Fahd, who is a member of the tripartite Arab committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis, explained to the Hashemite monarch the efforts being made regarding this and future action based on the need to implement the al-Ta'if agreement reached last year by the Lebanese people's representative in Saudi Arabia.

The two sides also discussed the Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and its serious effects on the future of the Arab-Israeli dispute. It was learned, however, that they discussed the possibility of conducting an Arab summit after certain conditions for its success have been met, such as realizing inter-Arab reconciliations and solving the Syrian-Iraqi dispute, which the Jordanian monarch is trying to accomplish with the support of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Sources here do not rule out Saudi moves in this direction. [end recording]

Departs for Home

LD1602001990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, the monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Riyadh today at 1800. The custodian of the holy places, King

Fahd Bin-'Abd al-Aziz Al-Sa'ud—may God grant him victory—saw his majesty off at King Khalid International Airport. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Emigration of Soviet Jews

LD1202211290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, chaired the session of the Council of Ministers conducted at the Yamamah Palace in Riyadh today, Monday, 17 Rajab 1410 AH.

His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, and acting information minister, made a statement to SPA after the meeting. [passage omitted]

The beloved king reaffirmed the Kingdom's continued support for this organization [the ICO] materially and morally to enable it to carry out its mission, bolster cooperation between the Islamic states and assist it in its efforts to serve our Islamic nation. [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

Regarding the Palestinian issue, his excellency the acting information minister said the Council had expressed concern about the emigration of Soviet and East European Jews and their resettlement in the occupied Palestinian territories, replacing the Palestinian citizens who are expelled by Israel [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Source Rejects Theory on Murder of Diplomats

PM1302123590 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 5 Feb 90 p 1

[By Sulayman Hatlan]

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has denied news agency reports claiming that labor differences were behind the terrorist crimes which claimed the lives of three of the kingdom's sons working at the Bangkok embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RIYADH, the source said that the sinful hand which assassinated martyrs 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Basri, Fahd 'Abdallah al-Bahili, and Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Sayf was committing an act of terrorism against the lives of our people working at the embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Bangkok. He emphasized that the claim that labor problems were behind the terrorist operation was completely unfounded.

The source also said: The Foreign Ministry statement issued the day before yesterday was quite clear. In principle, the employees of the Saudi Embassy in Thailand will not be recalled unless we feel that the members of the Saudi diplomatic mission there do not enjoy security and protection.

He added: "In that case, and as the Foreign Ministry statement said, there would be no justification for keeping them there."

Concluding his statement to AL-RIYADH, the source said: "We expect the initial results of the investigations being carried out by the Thai authorities to be announced during this current week."

Commentary on Emigration, Iran's 'Sinister' Aims

JN1502112590 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 15, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today confirmed in an article that the Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Palestine was not able to end uprising of the Palestinian people.

It added that neither donations and financial gifts which the United States has presented to finance the project of settling the new emigrants nor even the donations offered by the Romanian and Hungarian airlines to transfer the Soviet and non-Soviet Jews to Tel Aviv, would affect the Palestinian uprising.

At the conclusion of its commentary the paper pointed out that all attempts will fail as was the fate of the previous ones and Shamir would not be able to realise his black dream in ending the uprising and existence of the Palestinian people.

In another article, AL-THAWRAH daily for today commented on the first anniversary of founding the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) saying that strength of any Arab grouping was an additional strength to the Arabs at large.

The paper went on that the ACC and other Arab groupings were founded on the hope of fulfilling what we look for achieving unified Arab attitudes and for facilitating the process of adopting the unified Arab stance.

The paper went on to add that some of the facts felt by the Arab citizens necessitated doubling the effort to realize the hopes attached to these groupings and to begin translating these hopes into action.

AL-THAWRAH daily pointed out that dynamism of coordination for unification would remain the major criteria and yardstick for any grouping or unity. The continuous coordination and constructive interaction constitute a serious step towards unification and would crystallize a united attitude that would help unite the Arab attitude and develop it.

AL-THAWRAH daily confirmed that there was a comprehensive Arab-Gulf realization that achievement of overall and durable peace between Iraq and Iran was the key condition to consolidate security and stability in the Arab Gulf region.

In its commentary published today, the paper added that since the ceasefire came into effect on August 20, 1988, Tehran launched active and intensive political moves towards the Arab Gulf countries aiming at enhancing the relations, while the real goals behind these moves were to support and encourage pro-Iran terroristic and subversive organizations and destabilize the confidence with the aim of creating differences among the Arab Gulf countries themselves.

The paper further added that the Iranian regime has been pursuing throughout the wartime policies based on subversion, terrorism and threat against most of the Arab countries.

The paper stressed that awareness of the Arab Gulf countries of reality of the Iranian regime's goals and tendencies had foiled Tehran's sinister aims and open attempts.

The paper concluded its article by saying that all Iranian regime's conduct and political stances, practices at the Arab level currently, disclose by themselves that Tehran rulers could not be serious as concerns enhancing relations with the Arab Gulf countries' and there are several evidences in this regard namely, its intransigence and open manoeuvers in dealing with the process of peace with Iraq, and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, its unacceptable political and military role in the Lebanese crisis, besides the terroristic acts perpetrated against the Saudi diplomats abroad.

ACC Celebrates First Anniversary 16 Feb

Arab League Head Participates

JN1502130290 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 15, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz discussed in a meeting with the Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi here today Arab developments and means of consolidating the Arab joint action.

Mr Klibi had arrived in Baghdad yesterday to attend celebrations on the first anniversary of founding the Arab Cooperation Council which falls tomorrow Friday [16 Feb].

Jordan's Al-Qasim Attends

JN1502194890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad today to attend the central celebration on the first anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] which falls tomorrow, Friday. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, N. Yemen Ministers Arrive

JN1502201890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation to take part in tomorrow's celebrations of the first anniversary of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. In a statement to INA, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said he was happy to be attending the celebrations which are an important historic occasion and worthy of such attention. He added that although the ACC's victorious march began only

recently, it has been rich with achievements and with fruitful and useful activities on all political, economic, cultural, and financial levels—a promising situation.

He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and by the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], also arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation to the celebrations of the first anniversary of the establishment of the ACC. In a statement to INA, al-Iryani said that the establishment of the ACC a year ago in Baghdad, the city of victory and peace, is an important historic event in which every Arab takes pride. He added that the establishment of the ACC proved this nation's inherent abilities and resources through which it can prove in proper circumstances that it has considerable capacity for action, administration, and innovation. He said this has been proved by the things the ACC has achieved over a short period of time on all levels.

He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and by the YAR ambassador in Baghdad.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives in Baghdad

JN1502185890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG], arrived in Baghdad from Tehran this afternoon. General Jovic's visit to Iraq is part of his shuttle visits between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the work of international observers in both countries. He was received at the airport by his aide on the Iraqi side and by officers from the committee for coordination with UNIIMOG.

Correction to European Parliament's Israel Move

JN1502170290

[Text] The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Council Praises European Parliament's Israel Move," published in the 15 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 22.

Column one, graf three, line three make read: ...practiced by the Zionist forces against protesting sons of the occupied... (rewording for clarity).

Graf four, line five make read: The Parliament also demanded that the EEC foreign ministers take the necessary measures to reactivate peace talks through the organization of a Middle East peace conference under the auspices... (rewording for clarity).

Rabin: Other Participants Possible in Delegation

TA1502174290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The defense minister wants to reach an agreement whereby the Palestinian delegation would include inhabitants of the territories included in the population register of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

He is not worried any of the candidates may own an office or an apartment in East Jerusalem, or that they may be deportees who would be allowed to return to Israel. Minister Rabin made these remarks at a meeting of the Labor Party Bureau. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] The Labor Party Bureau abstained this afternoon from deciding on the dispute between doves and hawks on whether to compel the Inner Cabinet to make a decision on the peace process now or at a later stage.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told us a few minutes ago there are four points that, if agreed upon, could allow the political process to go ahead. These are the four points:
1. The Palestinian delegation—a very important point—would be composed of people included in the population register of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Yitzhaq Rabin is not bothered about owners of apartments or offices in East Jerusalem or about deportees allowed to return to Israel.
2. The announcement about the composition of the delegation would be delivered by Egypt.
3. The main issue on the agenda would be the modalities of the elections.
4. This point refers to the parties participating in the negotiations. Yitzhaq Rabin said other participants are possible, but he refused to divulge their identity, saying he hoped the negotiations ultimately would include only Egypt, Israel, and the Palestinians.

[Rabin] If we reach an agreement on this—and I think such an agreement which could be translated into names of people by the Egyptians or the Palestinians, which would be presented to us by the Americans if feasible—then there would be room for a clear-cut decision, regardless of whether it is accepted by part or the entire Likud.

[Raz] How long are you willing to wait?

[Rabin] I am willing to wait a few weeks. I believe an agreement can be reached on these points if we go about it in a different way than we so far have done.

[Raz] Shim'on Peres addressed the Bureau earlier, saying he sees no reason to drive the party into a whirlwind at this point. In fact, his remarks were similar to what we heard from the defense minister. He said: All we need is a period of several weeks, up to four weeks. [end recording]

Source Says 'Informal Feelers' Sent to Syria

TA1502182690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has denied the report Israeli and Syrian officials have been holding talks in Vienna on the possibility of a settlement over the Golan Heights. However, a diplomatic source in Jerusalem confirmed that the Syrians and Israel have been putting out informal feelers. [passage omitted]

UN Official: Syria 'Will Not Obstruct' Talks

TA1502120190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Feb 90 p 1

[By David Makovsky]

[Excerpt] Syria will not obstruct peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians, top Syrian officials told a senior UN official during meetings last week in Damascus, according to reports reaching Jerusalem.

There also is talk in Damascus about arms reductions, said Jean Claude Aimee, Middle East affairs assistant to the UN secretary-general.

Aimee met with President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' before arriving here this week for talks with Foreign Ministry officials.

Syria does not believe the current Israeli-Palestinian dialogue will succeed, he said, but in contrast to the past, does not want to obstruct the effort.

Aimee described al-Asad as "more flexible" than in the past. He said the Syrian leader still favours an international conference to settle the Middle East conflict, but now believes such talks could be sponsored by the superpowers, instead of the five permanent members of the Security Council, as he had demanded in the past. [passage omitted]

Analyses of Syrian 'Readiness' To Negotiate

TA1602112090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Feb 90 p 1

[By Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem in recent months has received a continuous influx of intelligence assessments pointing out Syria's readiness to enter negotiations on a political settlement with Israel.

The Foreign Ministry has conveyed these intelligence estimates to the decisionmaking echelon. As far as known, nothing has been done and no steps have been taken in the wake of these analyses.

A very senior official at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem recently claimed Syria is trying to integrate itself with the political process currently taking form in the Middle East.

In a conversation with a DAVAR correspondent, the senior official said Syrian President al-Asad believes he can get the Golan Heights back. "Al-Asad has good reasons to count on the United State's understanding," the official said, and added the European countries also may support the Syrian effort to restore its sovereignty over the Golan Heights through political means.

Richard Murphy, the former assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, two months ago visited Damascus. He conducted meetings with President al-Asad and with the Syrian leadership. Murphy told Israeli officials, whom he met immediately after his trip to Syria, he had received the impression the Syrians had not ruled out the possibility of launching negotiations with Israel soon.

The intelligence evaluations that have reached the Foreign Ministry show President al-Asad is working seriously on a new political direction, because his country is immersed in severe economic difficulties. Al-Asad's standing in the Arab world also has been weakened, and the state of his health is poorer than ever.

The decisive factor was the change that swept over the Soviet Union and the communist world in recent months. Al-Asad no longer can expect to receive the same level of defense and support as before from the communist bloc.

The Soviet Union even has categorically informed him it would not help Syria attain strategic parity with Israel. The meaning of this step is Syria no longer can count on the USSR for regular arms supplies.

Experts at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem argue these are the considerations that have led Syria to consider a political move with Israel.

Harish Decides To Close Weizman-PLO Probe

TA1502184390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish has decided to close the investigation of Minister 'Ezer Weizman [on charges of contact with PLO members].

He said no admissible evidence had been found to indicate a violation of the antiterror act on the part of the minister. Even if there had been such evidence, under the circumstances, an ironclad immunity could be cited. Our police affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack says Minister Weizman now wants to resume his place in the Inner Cabinet.

Our correspondent adds Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi, who was among those who filed a complaint against Minister Weizman, will appeal to the High Court of Justice tomorrow against Attorney General Harish's decision.

Weizman Return to Inner Cabinet Not 'on Agenda'

TA1602054390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The Weizman affair: The Prime Minister's Bureau says the issue of the return of Minister Weizman to the Inner Cabinet is not at all on the agenda.

Our political correspondent was told by Mr. Shamir's office the facts on which he based his decision to fire Minister Weizman from the Cabinet are true and substantiated beyond any doubt. The Bureau claims Mr. Shamir handled the issue from the political aspect, not from the legal point of view.

Minister Weizman refused to say whether he would demand his reinstitution as an Inner Cabinet member. He expressed satisfaction with the attorney general's decision.

The prime minister will begin handling the issue of appointing a substitute for Minister Ari'el Sharon only after Tuesday. The above was reported by Mr. Shamir's office to our party affairs correspondent, Shlomo Raz. Our correspondent says the near certain candidate for the post of minister in lieu of Ari'el Sharon is Knesset Member David Magen.

Representation in PRC To Open 'in a Few Days'

TA1602051990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The first Israeli representation in the PRC will open in a few days. Our correspondent reports that last night a permanent Israeli representation arrived in Beijing to open the liaison office for the Israeli Academy of Sciences. This will be the first representation of an official Israeli institute in the PRC. The liaison office will deal, among other things, with coordination of delegation and scientist exchanges.

Professor Hilel Shoval from the Hebrew University, who is in China to draw up an ecological and environmental protection master plan, reported last night that his Chinese counterparts were pleased with the opening of the liaison office. Chinese officials have said they view this as the first step toward establishment of diplomatic relations.

Sharon, Shamir To Set Date for Likud Session

TA1502143590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon will confer with the prime minister on Sunday in an attempt to set a date for a Likud Central Committee meeting devoted to social and economic issues.

The meeting is expected to be conducted in a development town. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen says Minister Sharon was speaking at Metzudat Ze'ev [Likud headquarters] in Tel Aviv, where he arrived to confer

with his two fellow members of the constraints camp, Ministers Levi and Moda'i. Knesset members who belong to that camp also are attending the meeting. Minister Sharon emphasized he sees no reason why the partnership between the three constraints ministers should break up.

Newspaper Says Rabin Giving Government 2 Months

TA1602121290 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Feb 90 p B1

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Rabin Gives the Government Two Months"]

[Text] The government is living on borrowed time. Even Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the main axis on which the government leans, gives it no more than "a few weeks."

If it was not for Rabin, the government already would have tumbled down last week. In the Alignment ministers meeting, summoned after the events at the Likud Central Committee, Minister Shim'on Peres stood up and said something like the following: So far we have been trying to appease the Likud. Shamir rejected Mubarak's 10 points, and we followed suit. Then came Baker's "five points," and the Likud tied our acceptance of them with receiving assurances—and we agreed to that, too. Now we do not need to appease him any longer. He needs us, and with all due respect, he should rise and ask for us.

In practice, Peres has stated the opinion Israel should suffice with the assurances already delivered to us through Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein; it should agree a deportee or two be included in the Palestinian delegation; the same holds true in relation to the Arabs of East Jerusalem; and no preconditions should be made concerning the agenda of the opening ceremony of the Cairo meeting with the Palestinian delegation.

In his inner circles, Rabin did not hide his opinion of Peres' motives: Peres raised these proposals in his recent visit to Cairo, and thought he would present them to the Alignment ministers, get their approval, and then present them for resolution in the Inner Cabinet, while having clear knowledge the Likud would not accept them. The inevitable result would have been a breakup of the government. We now are repeating the same stunt.

Rabin, who does not want the government dissolved, claims it should not be broken up as long as we do not have a proposition we too can accept. If there only is what Rabin terms a "substantive proposition" from the other side, which is different from the one presented by Peres, is there a point in presenting it for the Inner Cabinet's decision. Still, it should be considered doubtful whether Shamir would be satisfied with ideas acceptable to Rabin. In any event, the two have decided they have to continue walking the narrow margins the domestic and foreign political reality have left them.

In the days preceding the Likud Central Committee convention, a special middleman went back and forth between Shamir and Rabin to strengthen the understanding between the two figures and to make sure surprises were prevented. The main effort focused on making certain those participating in writing Shamir's political address to the Likud Central Committee did not come up with some blunder that would make it difficult for Rabin. Each side understood the limitations of the other party. Rabin took into consideration the speech should be firm enough for Shamir to overcome the constraints ministers, but he expected Shamir to consider the constraints Rabin himself was under in his own party. This mainly refers to two issues: The incorporation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections and deportees in the Palestinian delegation.

Knowing Rabin's expectations of him, Shamir nonetheless decided to take a risk on one issue—the incorporation of the Arabs of East Jerusalem into the political process. One of those who drafted the speech proposed to remove from the speech the explicit assertion according to which East Jerusalem Arabs would be banned from participating in the elections. His reason was it is not essential because it is "self evident," and if stated, would be considered an overt surrender to the constraints ministers.

But when Shamir noticed this clause was dropped, he demanded its return: "There is no reason to hide it. This omission will be portrayed as a step-down from our position." He insisted a clause be added, saying: "The Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem will not be able to be partners in the political process, which affects the status and future of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." To make it easier on Rabin, however, comes a complementary clause: "This is in line with the binding resolution of the Government of Israel under Menahem Begin dated 5 September 1982..."

On the other hand, Shamir agreed to vague wording concerning the deportees. Instead of stating it explicitly, two alternative statements were needed: "There will be no loopholes or cracks through which the PLO will be able to sneak in and have a foothold in the political process or in the territory of Eretz Yisra'el." Followed by: "We will firmly reject the slogans regarding the right of return and everything that symbolizes or helps implement that abominable theory."

This deliberate vagueness strengthened rumors that Shamir and Rabin allegedly already have reached an understanding according to which a compromise on the issue of the deportees will be possible.

After hearing the prime minister's speech at the Likud Central Committee, Rabin sighed with relief: "We can live with such phrasing." Preparing for the Alignment ministers meeting summoned for the same evening, he heard on the radio remarks by Hayim Ramon and Yosi Beilin, whom Rabin considers "Peres' sensors," and assumed this is just a prolog to what is going to take place

in the Alignment ministers meeting (the two called to disband the government in view of the events at the Likud Central Committee).

Rabin initiated a television appearance in which he left no doubt as to his idea of what the Alignment position should be. It was important to him to make his remarks heard before the Alignment ministers meeting, assuming "the appropriate atmosphere" would be created in the meeting, namely that Peres would not propose things to which Rabin would have to object. The "televised message" worked. Had it been up to Peres, it is possible operational resolutions would have been taken that very evening. The message and Rabin's "displeased facial expression" when listening to Peres—as described by participants in the meeting—however, brought conclusion of the session without a resolution.

It would, however, be a mistake to assume the continued existence of the unity government is guaranteed for as long as Rabin wants. The time-out Rabin gave Shamir is far longer than that to which Peres agrees.

Still, the fact Rabin speaks of "several weeks"—letting it be understood, in private conversations, he means about two months—is portraying Shamir's dilemma: To reject Rabin's positions necessarily would mean a breakup of the government, while taking the risk of a narrow-based government led by Shim'on Peres—unless Rabin's men and the Labor Party mainstream succeed in bringing about early Knesset elections, reasoning that whoever speaks of the need to break up the government to advance the peace process must admit a narrow-based government could never attain peace.

On the other hand, if Shamir wants to compromise with Rabin and agree to the inclusion of deportees, he is taking a risk of an open rift in the Likud and its inevitable split.

It is hard to envision Shamir splitting the Likud over an eroded peace initiative that has nothing to do with his original plan.

When Shamir is asked in private by Likud members whether he will agree to a compromise on the issue of deportees, who apparently became the bone of contention (even the Americans realize there is no point in pressing Shamir on the issue of the participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs in the political process), he replies: "There has been no change in our stand." Still, the issue has not been made sufficiently clear.

When asked to address the issue last week, following Peres' demand to reach a decision about this and other issues in dispute between the Likud and the Alignment, Shamir said: "Why should we shout from all the rooftops? Such a proposition has not yet been submitted to us (it was raised by Peres in his meeting with Mubarak), and I do not know whether it will be. The Americans are in no hurry as well, and what is clear at the moment is there still is no plan that could be agreed to by us, the United States, Egypt, and the Palestinians. Why should we press ourselves? Let us hear what others have to offer and, if indeed we reach this stage, I will be able to haggle."

Who will he haggle with, the Americans or the Alignment? It is possible that the Americans, who are aware of his hesitations will be patient; the Alignment will not.

So far, Peres has had to adjust his pace to Rabin's. There are, however, indications Rabin has begun feeling pressures which he might possibly find hard to overcome: "I am blocking the rising trend (to break up the government) in the Alignment," the defense minister confessed, "but I will not be able to do it for long. It is becoming difficult for me, too."

Internal Labor Party Differences on Peace Moves

TA1402121790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Feb 90 p A2

[By Ilan Shehori]

[Text] The dispute in the Labor Party between those demanding dissolution of the government and those who want continuation of the partnership with the Likud is becoming more intense.

The internal tension in the Labor Party leadership is increasing prior to tomorrow's Labor Party Bureau meeting, where there probably will be a secret vote between the hawks, who are demanding the government be upheld to give the political process another chance; and the doves, who are demanding decisions on all issues in dispute with the Likud—issues which if not decided would lead to the government's dissolution.

The doves and hawks yesterday conducted simultaneous gatherings in the Knesset prior to tomorrow's bureau meeting. Ten Labor Party Knesset members (MK's), headed by faction chairman Hayim Ramon, announced they had gathered the signatures of 45 of the 120 bureau members to present an ultimatum to the Likud to adopt the Labor Party's political demands or dissolve the government. The Labor Party ministers' decision Monday night not to decide on a date for a political debate in the Inner Cabinet on the responses to the Americans caused a great deal of anger among the doves.

They decided to present an unequivocal motion to the bureau to oblige Labor ministers to raise these issues in the Inner Cabinet within one to two weeks so if the Likud rejects these demands, the Labor Party immediately will secede from the government.

Alignment leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin agreed it would now be best for the United States to present Israel with clear questions on progress in the peace process, and for the Inner Cabinet to provide clear-cut answers. The two said this at the Alignment faction meeting called to discuss the events at the Likud Central Committee.

Peres said Shamir is not interested in any movement in the process, and that his speech was aimed at the nationalist camp without angering the Americans. He said the evaluation the Alignment can put together a narrow-based government is speeding up the peace process, but that reports he already has decided on its members are wrong.

Rabin said "several weeks" should be given and confirmed Ramon's remark the maximum is nine weeks. Rabin said in his view, a deportee who has returned is a resident of the territories, but avoided going into details when asked by MK Ora Namir if he has begun to return deportees. Rabin opposes an Inner Cabinet decision before a U.S. appeal is made.

Shamir Says Immigration 'Bottleneck' in USSR

TA1502175490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said as far as immigration is concerned, the bottleneck is in the Soviet Union.

Although it has opened its gates, bureaucratic and technical difficulties remain a big obstacle. The Soviets refuse to allow Israel to increase the personnel who process the immigrants at its representation in Moscow, and all efforts to arrange direct flights to Israel so far have failed. Nevertheless, the prime minister said, Israel appreciates Moscow's statements promising not to violate the right of Jews to immigrate to their homeland. Referring to rumors Jews in the Soviet Union are endangered, he said Israel is very alert to what is happening there. According to Mr. Shamir, some 6,000 immigrants are expected in Israel this month. He was addressing the Jewish Agency's Board of Trustees in Jerusalem.

Soviets Have 'No Intention' of Direct Flights

TA1602114790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Feb 90 p 1

[By political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Gabi Brun]

[Text] The Soviet Union has informed the United States it has no intention of allowing direct flights from the USSR to Israel on its Aeroflot line.

This transpired from talks recently conducted between the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers in Moscow. A report of these meetings reached Jerusalem yesterday, and our political correspondent learned its contents.

As recalled, U.S. President George Bush, following an appeal by the entire U.S. Senate, urged the Soviets to permit direct flights of Soviet immigrants to Israel.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told his U.S. counterpart the USSR is concerned by the incessant criticism leveled against it by the Arab states regarding this matter, and therefore, it could not implement the agreement to inaugurate direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv signed by the Israeli and Soviet national carriers.

Shahal Seeks Jordan's Consent to Canal Project

TA1402144890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal has called on the Jordanian Government to give its consent for a project to connect the Red Sea with the Dead Sea.

In a speech in Elat, Minister Shahal said such a canal could serve both countries. The waterfalls created on the channel's course would make possible the building of three hydroelectric power stations. The water also would revitalize the Dead Sea, which is drying up. The minister was speaking at a ceremony marking laying of the cornerstone for a fishery in Elat, where hundreds of tonnes of fish for export will be bred, hopefully bringing in approximately $10 million in profit every year. [passage omitted]

Bulgaria's Dimitrov: Resuming Ties Examined

TA1502154090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Bulgaria's relations with the Arab countries will dictate the progress made toward resumption of relations between Bulgaria and Israel, which is being examined.

This emerges from remarks made today by Bulgarian Foreign Minister Boyko Dimitrov to our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts. Dimitrov added Bulgaria would not put any obstacles in the way of Soviet Jews seeking to immigrate to Israel through Bulgaria.

Update on Palestinian Fatalities in Territories

TA1402103690 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 14 Feb 90 p 6

[By Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 12 February, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 559 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 712.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 863 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—631 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
— 57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
— 83 fatalities from asphyxiation.
— 92 fatalities from other causes.

Palestinians Say 12 Hurt; More on Incidents

TA1502115690

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 February carries a report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er on page A2, saying "according to Palestinian sources, 12 people were wounded in yesterday's Gaza Strip clashes, mainly in refugee camps in the southern Strip and in Gaza City, Rafah, and Khan Yunus." "Unofficial military sources reported riots erupted again in the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah, and four locals were wounded. Palestinian sources reported the same figure."

"A representative of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman in the Southern Command claimed there were no casualties yesterday in the Gaza Strip."

"An IDF soldier was injured by a stone yesterday while patrolling in the Gaza Strip. Riots in most schools in the Strip continued yesterday for the 12th consecutive day. Palestinian sources reported students clashed with the Army in most Gaza Strip schools."

"The trial of one of the Islamic Jihad defendants, who was charged with throwing a hand grenade at an IDF patrol, ended yesterday. The Gaza military court sentenced him to six and a half years in prison, plus another five and a half years suspended."

"The curfew imposed on the township of Qabatiyah near Janin remained in effect for the fifth day."

In another story on the same page, Yizhar Be'er reports "two days ago, more than 30 high school students from a Bethlehem boys school sustained injuries when beaten by five border policemen who were chasing stone throwers.

"This becomes apparent from detailed testimonies given to HA'ARETZ yesterday by students, teachers, administration personnel at the school, neighbors, and doctors who treated the students.

"Their statements contradict the IDF version published after the incident, according to which 16 students were hurt when they fell off a brick fence while running away from the policemen."

The report goes on to say "16 injured students were brought to the Husayn Hospital in Bayt Jala," and "another 20 students were brought to the Mount David Hospital suffering from bruises" which, according to hospital staffers, "could not have been caused by a fall off a wall."

"When asked, the IDF spokesman said yesterday the version the students fell off a wall prevails. It is based on an inquiry conducted by the brigade commander and the military governor. It was reported the teachers and doctors did not file any complaints on beatings."

On page A5 of HA'ARETZ, Yizhar Be'er writes: "One of the severest sentences ever passed on stone throwers who did not cause damage was handed down yesterday by the Hebron military court." "Five high school students from Halhul were given 16 months in prison, 18 months suspended, and a 1,000-shekel fine each." The report notes the five "had no criminal or security records and no prior convictions," adding the five were detained in their classrooms after "a Civil Administration officer watched the stone-throwing incident through binoculars from a distance of some 40 meters."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 February carries a report by Dan Izenberg on page 10, saying that "military sources yesterday said the 'Anatot Jail in the West Bank, which held up to 500 Palestinian prisoners, was closed on February 7 because of 'military considerations'," after "a civil rights group petitioned the High Court of Justice to close the facility because of the poor physical conditions there."

'Arafat, Al-Qasim Discuss Immigration, Intifadah

JN1502215890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, this evening received at his place of residence Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Husayn.

Mr. 'Arafat said this kind of meeting aims at coordinating the one effort to face the challenges confronting us as one family and one Arab nation.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, 'Arafat said a number of important issues were reviewed at this meeting, foremost of which is the situation inside the occupied Arab territories, including the blessed intifadah and Israel's recent escalation of brutality against our kinfolk, children and women in the occupied territories.

'Arafat added: I have given my brother Marwan al-Qasim a message of thanks, love, and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn, for all the efforts his majesty exerts for the sake of the Palestine issue and that of my steadfast sons and brothers in the face of Zionist occupation.

He noted they also discussed the immigration of Soviet Jews and the importance of dealing with this issue at the level of the eight-member committee, the level of the Arab Cooperation Council, or the next Arab summit, in addition to discussing the political situation surrounding our march to try to establish a just, comprehensive peace. On Palestinian-Soviet coordination to limit the immigration of Soviet Jews, 'Arafat said: I hope we'll be able to convince the Soviet friends to take some important measures to preserve the right of the Palestinian individual if the issue revolves around man's rights.

Mr. 'Arafat paid tribute to the children of the stones—the heroes of the intifadah—through the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, saying: I say to them, we are together until victory to Jerusalem, God willing. All these Israeli-American attempts are injections to strengthen the Israeli stance.

Marwan al-Qasim said followimg the meeting: His Majesty King Husayn honored me by having me carry a message to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to inform him of the steps that have to be taken through a working program, whether at the level of the eight-member committee, which has been formed to support the intifadah and looks after all aspects related to the Palestine issue, or other levels.

Concluding his statement, he expressed hope there might be a unified Arab strategy to deal with the challenges and threats facing not only Palestinian rights, or other Arab countries, but the entire Arab order and pan-Arab security.

The ambassadors of Jordan and Palestine in Baghdad attended the meeting.

King Frees 'Last Batch' of Political Prisoners

JN1602113690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] It was learned in Amman today that King Husayn ordered the release yesterday of the last batch of political prisoners in Jordan.

An authoritative source said these prisoners number 28.

King Returns From Saudi Arabian Visit 15 Feb

JN1502212090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening after a three-day working visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he conducted lengthy talks with his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, on the close ties between the two sisterly countries and on Arab and world developments.

The two sides stressed an identity of views on these developments and the need for action to mobilize Arab efforts to crystalize a common pan-Arab stand. [passage omitted]

'Izz-al-Din on Saddam Visit, Peace Issues

PM1402102590 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 12 Feb 90 pp 18-19

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din by Faysal al-Shabul in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Shabul] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently visited Jordan. His talks with King Husayn lasted two days, but no Jordanian official disclosed what was discussed. Did the talks deal with matters you believe it is wise not to publish anything about?

['Izz-al-Din] The exchange of visits between heads of state is very important. President Saddam Husayn's visit was of special importance. The two leaders always exchange both visits and views, so the visit was not a surprise. Meetings are continuing and desired.

As for what was discussed during the visit, in addition to bilateral relations, they discussed Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] affairs, the ACC leaders' summit to be conducted in Amman this month—February—developments in the Iraq-Iran situation, Israel's pressures on Jordan and the Palestinian people, and international conditions and developments.

[Al-Shabul] There are positive developments in the Arab atmosphere, including development of Egyptian-Syrian relations. Jordan—and King Husayn personally—frequently has tried to bring Syrian-Iraqi views closer.

How do you view the new conditions, and are there any signs of Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement?

['Izz-al-Din] What happened between Egypt and Syria is positive and desired; any Arab meeting is required. I agree with you the present Arab conditions differ from those of the past. This is because there now is understanding of each state's position. Arab relations have become more objective and positive, especially through the three existing cooperation councils, which all have one objective—to try to find common ground for cooperation to confront the new world which we will enter in the next century, especially in view of the emergence of Europe—that is, in addition to the United States, the Soviet Union, and Japan—as a gigantic economic bloc, something requiring a strong Arab bloc. So there are many changes in the world we Arabs must confront with further accord.

Regarding Iraq and Syria, King Husayn made initiatives to reconcile them, and we hope God always will give us the opportunity to bring their views closer.

[Al-Shabul] Israel recently has focused a fierce onslaught against Jordan. What, in your view, are the reasons for that onslaught now, and what stage may it reach?

['Izz-al-Din] If we try to analyze Israel's position, we will find it is being exposed to strong pressure from the valiant intifadah. It also is being exposed to international pressure to get it to agree to move toward peace. The Israeli Government totally refuses to move toward peace. All international efforts have failed to persuade Shamir to give the peace process a chance at a time when a new reality has emerged—namely, the PLO's assumption of the major role in reactivating the peace process. The PLO has succeeded in imposing itself on the international level in a positive way. It now is internationally acceptable as the main party with which Israel must deal to achieve peace in the region.

In the face of the intifadah's pressure inside and the peace pressure at the international level, Israel started to fabricate things and propose imaginary ideas. It says Jordan is Palestine—which is not only rejected, but also raises a question about what Israel exactly wants. It is clear it does not want to admit Palestine's territory belongs to its people. It wants to continue to occupy it. It is trying in one way or another to evade a peaceful solution.

It thus is seeking to get rid of the Palestinian people and turn Jordan into a place of residence for those evacuated by it. But these things are clear to Jordan, the Arabs, and the world as a whole and must be resisted.

[Al-Shabul] Israel's threats reached the point of hinting at a military option. What will Jordan do if an Israeli aggression occurs?

['Izz-al-Din] Anyone who is exposed to aggression must defend himself. Jordan does not provoke anyone; nor does it embark on any action bound to give Israel the opportunity to exploit a transient event to realize its aggressive designs. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shabul] Despite Israel's intransigent position and the U.S. lack of seriousness, some Jordanian and Arab officials are optimistic the coming days will witness developments in the peace process in the region. If you are one of them, what is the source of your optimism?

['Izz-al-Din] I have no information about the existence of an atmosphere of optimism among Jordanian officials. But if we explore the situation objectively, we will find there are many difficulties facing international efforts. The positive thing is the situation still is under discussion. But I cannot see many aspects of optimism about what is happening between Washington and Cairo. The matter is not smooth; it is difficult.

There is something which can lead us to "strategic optimism"—if such a phrase can be used—namely, the presence of the intifadah on Palestine's territory and the determination of its people to preserve their territory, a "strategic" optimism not linked to the movement of any official in Washington or in any other state. So I am optimistic, because the Palestinian people are steadfast on their territory and are maintaining a true struggle that will lead them to certain victory.

Israel Used Attack To Harm Egypt-PLO Ties

JN1302082090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Feb 90 second edition p 1

[Editorial: "The Lavon Scandal Is Not the First; Nor Will It Be the Last"]

[Text] The investigations conducted by the Egyptian security forces have concluded that the fingerprints taken from the Peugeot 505 which was used in the Ismailia bus operation do not match those of the six detainees suspected of carrying out the incident.

In addition, the Egyptian interior minister said two days ago that the operation was planned in Israel, and that the bombs used are only used by the Israeli Army.

Also, Israeli war minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, said two days ago that two of the West Bank deportees have a connection with the bus incident.

Rabin's information comes, of course, from the Shin Bet and Mosad because although he says those who committed the crime are from the West Bank deportees, we don't know why he doesn't give their names.

Israeli radio forgot the information media, the language of media, decency, logic and morals, when it began reviling SAWT AL-SHA'B in a disgusting manner because it highlighted the Egyptian interior minister's statements.

The problem with those who work in the Israeli information media is that they forgot or ignored t?HLav?n scandal whehe war ?n Gurion's cabinet struck at U.S.

interests in Arab Egypt to harm Cairo's relations with Washington. However, 'Abd-al- Nasir's security forces discovered the game; subsequently, some people were hanged—and magic backfired on the magician.

If the case of the Jewish emigrants' ship, which was sunk by the Zionist movement off the Palestinian coasts, forced the British Government to kneel before the will of the Jews and open the doors of emigration wide open to receive them, the bus operation will not force Egypt—people and government—to kneel before Israel, despite the fact that the Israeli aim behind the operation is to harm relations between Egypt and the PLO. And when the reason is known, there remains no cause for surprise.

Minister of Labor Comments on Foreign Workers

NC1502170990 Cairo MENA in English 1406 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Amman, Feb 15 (MENA)—Jordanian Minister of Labour, Dr Qasim 'Ubaydat, said foreign workers in Jordan numbered 225,000 including 155,000 Egyptians. In a special interview with MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA), the minister said only 43,000 expatriates carried work permits. The others were working illegally in Jordan.

Dr 'Ubaydat said no expatriate worker would be expelled from Jordan except after the ministry had re-examined the needs of the Jordanian labour market of expatriate workers. The study would be completed within a month. Jordan had announced that it would have to expel workers who did not carry legal work permits. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian minister of labour said there were at present 120,000 unemployed Jordanians in the different sectors. Jordanians were not willing to take certain jobs, particularly in agriculture and loading and unloading goods, and service at homes. These jobs would be available to expatriate workers for long periods. Priority in job opportunities in the available sectors in Jordan would be given to workers from the countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other Arab countries.

The ministry of Labour was not at present giving permits in the agricultural sector except to workers carrying Arab nationalities. [sentence as received] The services of workers of other nationalities in these sectors were being dispensed with,the minister said. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian minister of labour denied that measures would be taken to prevent Arabs from coming to Jordan or a ban would be imposed on entry to Jordanian terriotry. In the light of the steadfastness of Arabs in occupied territories and in order to counter Israeli plans to make the Arabs vacate occupied territories, Jordan would not offer jobs to people coming from occupied territories who carry Palestinian documents. "We do not encourage exit from Arab territories under Israeli occupation," the minister said. [passage omitted]

Debt Rescheduling Accords With France, Austria

JN1502131490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Jordan and France today signed an agreement on rescheduling debts offered from the French government. According to the agreement, the debts—worth about $130 million—will be paid within 10 years starting this year.

Another agreement was signed at the Ministry of Finance today between Jordan and Austria. Debts worth about $13.5 million will be paid during the next 10 years.

Central Bank Institutes Single Exchange Rate

JN1602091090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has issued a new memorandum, effective 27 February 1990, in which it informs banks and licensed financial companies that in line with its policy to stabilize and unify the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate, the CBJ will adopt a unified price for the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate against the U.S. dollar.

This measure is intended to cover all commercial and invisible payments, as opposed to the situation prior to the memo; that is, when there were two prices for the dinar's exchange rate: one official, the other free.

The CBJ announced its readiness to meet the foreign currency needs of banks and licensed financial companies from time to time at a selling rate of 673 fils per dollar; and a buying rate of 671 fils per dollar, provided they abide by a maximum selling rate of 675 fils per dollar and do not charge any commission for the difference of currency, to meet the various needs of their clients.

Paris Dailies Interview 'Awn, Ja'ja' on Conflict

'Awn on Fighting

PM1502160690 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Feb 90 p 6

[Interview with Lebanese Christian leader General Michel 'Awn by Stephane Marchand in Beirut—date not given]

[Text] Beirut—[Marchand] Why are you waging war on other Christians?

['Awn] Samir Ja'ja' attacked me. It is a plot to overthrow me, controlled from outside. Everybody knows that. The open statements by some countries have demonstrated it clearly enough. Samir Ja'ja' thought that by dealing the first blow to the Lebanese Army and by capturing some barracks, the Army would rapidly disintegrate and I would go. He was mistaken. We succeeded in containing the first assault and we then had to launch a few offensives to safeguard the lines of communication. We had to create a sufficiently big zone to be able to maneuver easily in it. That was the first phase.

There is now a great deal of mediation through the papal nuncio. But the fighting has continued, because the Lebanese Forces are pursuing a specific objective. They are in close liaison with al-Hirawi (the pro-Syrian Lebanese president—LE FIGARO editor's note) and the Syrians. It is no secret to anybody that some members of the Phalangists (the political party linked with the Lebanese Forces—LE FIGARO editor's note) are moving to West Beirut. In Paris, they are meeting with the Syrians and asking for aid to fight us.

Samir Ja'ja' has tried and he has failed. The whole Lebanese people support me. His attack caused us damage, because he took us by surprise, but we will repair that damage. Ja'ja' cannot continue. He is terrorizing the people. He has killed many people. But every Lebanese holds the Army in his heart, because it is the national army which has protected the population against the militias, against drugs, and against terrorism.

[Marchand] Do you think that the Americans are using Samir Ja'ja' against you?

['Awn] Why specify that? I do not want any further arguments with Mr. Weinberger, former U.S. secretary of state for defense, who said that Lebanon does not exist. We know that when the Americans have an idea, they first test it through statements like that, to ensure that it reaches its target. But, strangely enough, this position is also a negation of Mr. al-Hirawi, the puppet authority which they created. The United States is now openly revealing what it has always done in secret.

[Marchand] What about France?

['Awn] I do not think that France is compromised. France is worried and does not share those ideas. It gave its approval to the al-Ta'if agreements because it believed that they were a solution. That has proved not to be the case.

[Marchand] What is at stake in your fight against the Lebanese Forces?

['Awn] Samir Ja'ja' took action because he was given promises. I do not know what they were, probably power in the Christian sectors. But, you know, that all happens in the world of intelligence. Unfortunately, what Mr Ja'ja' does not understand is that, if he defeats me, he too will be destroyed.

[Marchand] You also want power over the Christian sector....

['Awn] I am the government.

[Marchand] The Lebanese Forces accuse you of monopolizing power....

['Awn] I invited them to participate in decision-making and in the military effort. They were offered ministerial portfolios in the state, but they do not want anything to do with this state. They want an entirely different entity.

[Marchand] Do you think that there will one day be a separate Christian state?

['Awn] Never.

[Marchand] In fact your main criticism of Mr. Ja'ja' is that he does not oppose the al-Ta'if agreements....

['Awn] Let us hold a referendum! If the Lebanese people accept the al-Ta'if agreements, I will give up power, all my power, immediately. It is Samir Ja'ja' who has moved away from the Lebanese people. Do you take me for a dictator? I have never made a single decision alone. I bow to the people's will. That will be my pride and glory in the eyes of history. And do not talk to me about those deputies elected 20 years ago who reached the al-Ta'if agreement. Around 30 individuals cannot decide for the country. There must be a referendum.

[Marchand] Mr. Ja'ja' accuses you of asphyxiating him financially.

['Awn] The Lebanese Forces are very good forces which we need. They have a constructive role to play. But they are being exploited by clan leaders. Mr Ja'ja' should be integrated into the state. If he is not, I want no agreement with him.

Ja'ja' on Battle

PM1502142290 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Feb 90 p 4

[Report on interview with Lebanese Forces Chief Samir Ja'ja' by Francoise Chipaux in Adonis—date not given]

[Text] Beirut—"It is pure madness. Whatever the reasons which prompted General 'Awn to start this war, the moral, human, and material damage it is causing are

much greater. Whatever damage the al-Ta'if agreement might have done to our society, Michel 'Awn's war is worse."

In a small office in the Lebanese Forces' military security barracks in Adonis, Samir Ja'ja', calm but determined, tried to be convincing in his avowed desire to end the fighting.

"We must stop immediately," Mr. Ja'ja' said and he told us that he telephoned Gen 'Awn on Monday evening to try to convince him of this need and then decided to end the direct attacks on the general in his media, but the press has not yet responded to this "truce." The conditions put forward by Mr. Ja'ja' to end the fighting have not changed: "An end to Gen 'Awn's attempts to eliminate the Lebanese Forces," which clearly means that the latter will maintain their political, military, economic, and social structures, and "respect for political freedoms in the East" in other words "a return to a normal political life in which everybody has the right to express his viewpoint."

"Political life over the past 6 months, in which there was only 'Awn and the crowds acclaiming him, was madness. We are neither the Libyan Jamahiriyah nor Uganda. We are no longer in the days of Mussolini or Al-Nasir," Mr. Ja'ja' said.

[Chipaux] Is there any hope for a political solution?

[Ja'ja'] Gen. 'Awn is negotiating unwillingly, his only chance is to stop and negotiate with us. I am prepared to start again with him. We must work in this direction and rapidly normalize the situation in the (Christian—LE MONDE editor's note) Eastern regions."

Mr. Ja'ja', who says he has "many offers from various quarters," does not, at least at this stage, wish to resort to the other solution—rapprochement with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. He admitted that he was "halfway between Gen 'Awn, whose theoretical politial plan—liberation and unification—means, in practical terms, the consolidation of the Syrian presence and partition, and President Al-Hirawi, whose position we do not know." Mr Ja'ja' said: "If we continue, I think that Al-Hirawi, and hence Syria, will intervene, and Gen 'Awn will be responsible for this new tragic episode in the Christians' history."

Will he never appeal to President Al-Hirawi? "I do not think so," he merely replied, maintaining his ambiguity regarding the al-Ta'if agreement. "I am neither for nor against al-Ta'if. But if Gen 'Awn, who still demands the clear condemnation of the al-Ta'if agreement, started this war for that reason, that is grotesque."

With regard to the military toll of these two weeks of fighting, in which human losses have been very heavy on both sides, but less for the militia—who are in a defensive position—than for the army—which is attacking—Mr. Ja'ja', whose assessment of the army's losses is corroborated by independent sources, said: "We have taken more than 1,500 soldiers prisoner, whereas they only have around 50 of our militia. We have captured around 50 T-55 and M-48 tanks, around 40 in working order, and around 40 armored troop transports. I agree to the army keeping what it has captured from us and we will keep what we have captured from it."

All along the road which rises from Adonis above Juniyah to Al-Qulayat (10 minutes by car), where the army's offensive was pushed back last weekend, the Lebanese Forces' tanks are posted and military positions are installed among the apartment blocks which overlook the Nahr al-Kalb valley, a natural border between Al-Matn, held by the army, and Kasrawan. The traces of fighting can be seen everywhere here, and the three villages of Al-Qulayat, Ajaltun, and Rayfun are empty of their 50,000 inahbitants, who have fled to safer areas.

Ja'ja' Reportedly Sends Letter to Sa'adah

NC1502130290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] It was disclosed today that Samir Ja'ja' sent a letter two days ago to Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah, who is in Paris. According to newss reports, the message explains the situation to Sa'adah and the deputies. In his message, Ja'ja' asks Sa'dah and deputies to make a decision either to support him or propose a solution. If they have no stand or view, he will consider accepting 'Awn's conditions.

The deputies staying in Paris met at the home of deputy Kazim al-Khalil and discussed Ja'ja''s letter. They asked Deputies Mikha'il Dahir and Nadim Salim to go to Lebanon today to hold consultations with President Al-Hirawi and study the situation.

'Awn, Lebanese Forces Conflict Continues

'Awn Requests Ammunition

NC1502133090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] In a front-page report, the AL-SAFIR newspaper says that General 'Awn has urgently requested a quantity of ammunition from West Beirut to be supplied via the Southern Suburb or the mountain area. The paper adds that intensive exchanges were conducted between influential pro-'Awn figures and West Beirut leaders, including Army General Emile Lahhud, 10 days ago. 'Awn, the paper says, sought guarantees from West Beirut leaders that the contact lines would not be attacked, to enable him to transfer combat units from the fronts to fight in East Beirut.

AL-SAFIR goes on to say that 'Awn's request for guarantees and ammunition has so far not been met with a final clear-cut reply.

'Awn To Allow Hubayqah Group In

NC1502154490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] According to verified security reports, an 'Awn group deployed in the Monte Verde area has received instructions to facilitate the passage of Elie Hubayqah's [former chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee] group into the free areas. These instructions came in the wake of a series of contacts between 'Awn and Hubayqah aimed at securing the arrival of Hubayqah's group in the eastern area to fight alongside 'Awn's group. 'Awn's group is suffering from low morale and numerous desertions after repeatedl failing to achieve any military success against the Lebanese Forces.

During the past few days, 'Awn intensified his contacts with the Syrian occupation forces who assured him and guaranteed that the fronts he left unprotected would not be penetrated. 'Awn evacuated his forces from these fronts so he could concentrate his efforts on demolishing the free area and abolishing the Lebanese Forces.

Phone Lines 'Disconnected'

NC1502200490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] For the last 13 hours, the citizens have been subjected to fierce shelling which is causing fires and much destruction. So far fire brigades and the Red Cross have been unable to evacuate the wounded or extinguish the fires that bro! e out in homes and public facilities.

'Awn's troops shelled al-Ashrafiyah and most of the eastern areas, but the heroic area of 'Ayn al-Rummanah bore the brunt of the fighting. Up until now, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, al- 'Adliyah, al-Nahr, al-Dawrah, and al-Bawshariyah continue to be shelled. Long-range artillery shells also fell on Kasrawan and Jubayl coasts.

All communication lines between the mediation committee and 'Awn's clique were severed due to the latter's insistence on continuing the destruction and shelling. 'Awn has ordered that the military communications line linking the Army commands and the Lebanese Forces be disconnected, and he has disconnected the two telephone lines in B'abda.

This evening, the mediation committee and Patriarch Sfayr discussed the current situation and how to confront the ugly war's grave consequences.

It has become increasingly difficult to estimate material and human losses due to the intensity of the shelling. The shelling has caused fires in homes and cars and has led to many buildings being destroyed.

REUTER has cited a security source saying that in 'Ayn al- Rummanah, fighting is taking place from one building to another and from one street to another. Also, tanks are firing from 20 to 40 meters away. REUTER said that it is hard to know what is taking place in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, where 'Awn's troops are trying to take control.

REUTER said that the battle will be very costly because the buildings in 'Ayn al-Rummanah are situated close together. REUTER cites one of the inhabitants as saying that the smell of gunpowder and death fills the air, and that the situation is unbearable. The inhabitant wonders if 'Awn will listen.

'Awn Penetrates 'Ayn Al-Rummanah

NC1502190990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The eastern areas are still an inferno whose fires are stoked by 'Awn's and Ja'ja's gangs in their deadly 15-day-old power struggle. Today's battles were more vicious than previous ones. Shells from the eastern area's exchanges have also fallen in the western area where four people died and 40 others were injured. It has not been possible to obtain reports on the eastern area's casualties because the Red Cross has not been able to evacuate the dead and injured as a result of the intensive bombardment of all eastern areas, particularly al-Ashrafiyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. According to Ja'ja's media, 'Awn's gangs have been attempting to advance into 'Ayn al-Rummanah since 0600 today. Ja'ja' forces added that they had repulsed attacks carried out by 'Awn's commando forces.

According to information we have received, 'Awn's gangs have succeeded in penetrating 'Ayn al-Rummanah as a result of betrayals within the ranks of Ja'ja's gangs, whose members immediately executed some personnel and officials [words indistinct].

According to the same reports, 'Awn's gangs suffered 31 dead and 25 wounded in today's battles in 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Some of them were also captured by the al-Karantina gangs [Lebanese Forces].

Ja'ja' on 'Ayn Al-Rummanah Battle

NC1502214690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1937 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' by an unidentified radio announcer—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Hello, Dr. Ja'ja', good evening.

[Ja'ja'] Good evening.

[Announcer] Dr. Ja'ja', we always bother you under such circumstances.

[Ja'ja'] Do not worry about it.

[Announcer] The public is frustrated with the current conditions, and particularly wonders what the situation is in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

[Ja'ja'] Tanks and heavy artillery have been shelling 'Ayn al- Rummanah, where most of the fighters who defended most of Lebanon's fronts came from, for the past 18 hours. This is the reward that 'Ayn al-Rummanah and its sons get for their role in every battle over Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and freedom. This is how they are rewarded.

'Awn's army has attacked 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah's fighters are defending their area just like they defended it before against other foreign and barbaric armies. We are not going to give up our freedom, and this is becoming a battle for freedom. [passage omitted]

'Awn cannot take 'Ayn al-Rummanah unless he kills everyone, and he cannot do that. There is an all-out attack against 'Ayn al- Rummanah which has lasted all day. The offensive subsided a little at nightfall. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Dr. Ja'ja', are you confident regarding the situation on the ground and the current war?

[Ja'ja'] Yes, I am 100 percent confident, and I want everyone to know that. We may lose or win one building here or there, and they may win a little ground here or there. This does not matter. What matters is that we, as a resistance, as a nation, and as a symbol of freedom, will last forever. No one can touch us, eradicate us, or influence us. I am very satisfied with the situation on the ground. We have no problem. [passage omitted]

Gains by 'Awn Forces in East

NC1602074690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Explosions in the eastern area, and in 'Ayn al-Rummanah in particular, have been clearly heard since dawn today. 'Awn is adopting the tactic of surprise attack and carving off a section at a time. After successfully attacking al-Dubayyah, Darayya, and al-Qulay'at, he turned to 'Ayn al-Rummanah, which he bombarded intensively yesterday. At the same time, he took full control of the Furn al-Shubbak area and tightened the cordon around the al-'Ayn area, which is considered to have fallen militarily. [passage omitted]

The process of surrounding 'Ayn al-Rummanah continued for 14 hours, during which two cease-fire agreements collapsed and 'Awn's forces launched a series of attacks, under cover of intensive artillery bombardment of various parts of the estern area, causing much destruction and several fires. 'Awn's forces managed to advance in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, take control of Furn al-Shubbak, and tighten the cordon around the (Qasarjiyan) barracks of the Lebanese Forces. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, areas in West Beirut, the Southern Suburb, and al-Matn have come under indiscriminate artillery shelling from emplacements in the eastern area. Four persons were killed and 42 injured, and serious property damage resulted. The violence of the battles has restricted the efforts of the mediation committee, which, sources say, have reached an impasse.

It has been reported that heavy damage has been caused in most parts of the eastern area, especially in Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al- Rummanah, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, al-Bawshariyah, al-Dubayyah, and 'Ajaltun. Over 3,000 cars are said to have been destroyed on the coastal road.

According to reports, the number of people leaving various parts of the eastern area rose from 75,000 to 100,000 in the past week. They either headed for other Lebanese areas or went abroad via the port of Juniyah. [passage omitted]

Exclusive reports say that approximately 150 members of the army have been killed, including 18 officers, and over 300 others wounded, in addition to those killed, wounded, or missing during the battles of the past 24 hours. General 'Awn's army is said to have lost 65 armored cars and 35 tanks since the outbreak of the battles on 31 January.

Shelling Continues

NC1602072090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The artillery shelling by the military units still under General 'Awn's orders continues. Since early this morning artillery shells have been falling in various areas, particularly Furn al-Shubbak and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. There are no reports about casualties this morning, however.

Movements by 'Awn's armed units were monitored last night. They were accompanied by bursts of machinegun fire and intermittent sniper fire. Fires are still raging; it is hard to put them out because there is a shortage of adequate fire extinguishers and access to the scene of the fires is difficult.

'Ayn al-Rummanah, which has become the standard-bearer of steadfastness, still does not have the time to assess the extent of the losses which it has suffered as a result of 13 hours of shelling and repeated attacks. The 102d battalion of the 10th Brigade, which was withdrawn from the Suq al-Gharb front, the 51st battalion of the 5th Brigade, which was withdrawn from Kafr Shima front, and the 83d battalion of the 8th Brigade, which was withdrawn from the Dahr al-Wahsh front, took part in these battles.

REUTER reported that 'Awn's forces used 155-mm howitzers in their attack on 'Ayn al-Rummanah. It said that around 23 persons were killed and 35 others injured. The casualties were left lying on the floor of the hospital. A cameraman reported that among the casualties were infants not yet two months old and that the hospital floor was covered with blood.

More Shelling

NC1602084490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Various neighborhoods in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Tahwitah, and al-Ashrafiyah are still coming under intermittent artillery fire from 122-, 120-, and 82-mm field guns and mortars. The shelling, which has caused fires in cars and houses, is coming from artillery emplacements of the 'Awn units in Harat al-Majadilah, Jisr al-Basha, and Hursh Thabit, and from long-range guns in the northern and southern al-Matn regions.

Continuous Clashes Taking Place

NC1602105390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Continuous clashes involving the use of artillery, rocket launchers, and various types of automatic weapons have been taking place in the Furn al-Shubbak, al-Tahwitah, Camille Sham'un Boulevard, Chevrolet, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah areas since this morning. A pall of smoke covers East Beirut.

At the request of the French Embassy, the mediation committee issued a statement today in which it called for the Hotel Dieu Hospital in al-Ashrafiyah to be treated as neutral after it was shelled by the 'Awn group yesterday. [passage omitted]

Sfayr Urges 'Awn, Ja'ja' To Stop Fighting

NC1502211890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] After 'Awn broke telephone communications with the mediation committee, the committee contacted his beatitude the patriarch, and they reviewed the current tragic situation. The patriarch then issued the following appeal:

[Begin Sfayr recording] We cannot do anything but raise our voice for the 11th time to tell officials, specifically Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, whom we have been trying to phone for three days in vain, and Dr. Samir Ja'ja', that we are appealing to their overburdened consciences. We hold them responsible for slaughtering innocent people. In light of our spiritual and nationalist status, we have the right to tell them that the people have experienced enough of the war's horrors, and they do not want to hear any more about it. Stop the hostilities, negotiate as long as you want, let the people live, and return to your Christian principles of forgiveness, absolution, and love. [end recording]

'Awn, Sfayr Hold 2-hour Meeting

NC1602121590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1148 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report we received a short time ago, 'Awn's media said this afternoon that the former army commander [General 'Awn] met for two full hours with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr. However, the media did not provide any details as to what went on during the meeting.

Cabinet Appeals To Army To Join Lahhud Command

NC1502153090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Statement by Information and Justice Minister Edmond Rizq after a cabinet meeting under President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 15 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] At the outset of the meeting, President Al-Hirawi said he commiserated with the people in the eastern area on their suffering. He expressed extreme concern for deteriorating security and living conditions there, especially the food and water shortages and the lack of medical supplies. He also expressed concern for the merciless and brutal treatment of the citizens, who are being subjected to bombardment, starvation, and death. [passage omitted]

President Al-Hirawi elaborated on the intensive efforts to end the abnormal situation in the eastern area. The situation is the result of the rebellion, the usurpation of power, and the insistence to control the people's destiny and stifle their freedoms. [passage omitted]

The cabinet then discussed political, financial, and administrative issues, and above all, how to ensure water and power supplies. The cabinet discussed the situation existing in various areas, and they adopted the appropriate decisions on agenda topics.

The cabinet appeals to the Lebanese in various areas to publicly and directly reject all those who are trampling their destiny and gambling with their sons' blood. The cabinet also appeals to the Lebanese Army—officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers—to stop being tools in the hands of people who want to achieve personal goals and to satisfy their thirst for blood. The cabinet calls on the Army not to be an instrument for annihilating their people and destroying their society.

The cabinet asks the officers and soldiers to express allegiance to a single Lebanon and a single homeland by obeying the orders of their legal commander General Emile Lahhud and by joining their real comrades in arms.

Amal Discovers Booby-Trapped Car in South

NC1602082190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that its security organs in the South have discovered a car rigged with 200 kg of explosives in the town of Sarba. The security men arrested the car driver, who said a Hizballah official had given him the car for the purpose of assassinating Amal officials or blowing up Amal centers.

Al-Shar' Denies Report of Talks With Israel

JN1502181390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 15 Feb (SANA)—The SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY, SANA, has asked Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' about the report published by the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT concerning meetings between Syrian and Israeli officials in Austria. The minister replied: This is a groundless report. There were no talks either directly or indirectly between Syrian and Israeli officials on any level.

Martial Law Regulations Reportedly Abolished

JN1602092690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible Syrian source in Damascus has said that the Syrian Council of Ministers has abolished martial law regulations enacted during the 1958-1961 period of Syrian-Egyptian unity, when 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sarraj was interior minister. However, crimes related to state security were excepted from the Council of Ministers' action.

The source said that the inner cabinet made this decision during a session earlier this year.

Jordanian House Speaker Urges Pan-Arab Efforts

JN1502182190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received the following cable from Mr. Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives: Please accept our most profound expression of respect, appreciation, and thanks to Your Excellency for the incessant efforts you exert on all domestic, Arab, and international levels to realize pan-Arab aspirations and confront the enemies of Arabism and Islam. I communicate to Your Excellency the policy lines of the Jordanian House of Representatives, whose aspirations reflect the conscience of the Arab masses as well as their hopes. The Jordanian House of Representatives has unanimously decided to address an appeal from within the hearts of the masses, beseeching you to move in unison and to adopt a single pan-Arab stand to protect pan-Arab security, which is indivisible, and to safeguard the one Arab people's right to survival for the confrontation of the one enemy, namely the Israeli Zionist enemy. We hope that this appeal which comes specifically from Jordan will have a special meaning because it comes from an Arab country that represents the last line in defense of the Arab east.

The Jordanian House of Representatives feels at this stage in particular that, as one people who are confronting the same enemy, we must choose between survival or annihilation, between existence or extermination. This choice behooves all of us to draft a new unified strategy that will let us adopt a new stand on the basis of cohesion among the Arabs of the confrontation states against Israel—a cohesion which is the choice of life to confront death. We beseech you to take effective steps to settle differences and clear up relations for the sake of building a single Arab stance that will be capable of confronting the challenges our nation is facing, and for consolidating the partnership of destiny among Jordan, Syria, and Iraq in all fields, especially defense, which should emerge as a fateful course by which the three countries will unite to form one eastern front backed by all the Arab states. May God grant you success and guide your steps toward unity and impregnability.

Council of Ministers Reviews Political Situation

JN1302145390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 today. At the outset of this meeting, the Council of Ministers reviewed the Services Committee work, which included the draft laws prepared by the Ministries of Defense, Supply, Internal Trade, and Health. The Council also reviewed the Cultural Committee's work, which included organizational matters related to attending international conferences and symposia as well as participating in them, in addition to a number of cultural activities. Besides, a political review was made during this meeting in which Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' explained the results of the Arab Ministerial Committee's meeting for backing the intifadah, which was recently held in Tunis. The Council also discussed a number of topics on its agenda and took the necessary decisions.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Officials

JN1002174790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1030 today Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of Lebanon's Chamber of Deputies, and Shaykh Muhammd Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council. They discussed the situation in Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech on Withdrawal Anniversary

LD1502043190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Speech by Afghan President Najibullah in Kabul on the first anniversary of the Soviet Forces' withdrawal from the Republic of Afghanistan, delivered on 14 February—live or recorded]

[Text] [Najibullah] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate:

Dear compatriots, one year has passed since the complete withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. In this regard, I would like to inform the compatriots of the events and developments in the course of the year and draw their attention and judgment to the peaceful plans and proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the reaction of the opposition.

Our compatriots are aware that the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, in accordance with the timetable enshrined in the Geneva Accords, was completed on 26/11/1367 [15 February 1989] and thus the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union fulfilled their pledges in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Geneva agreements. However, Pakistan, as the signatory and the United States, as a guarnator of the Geneva Accords, not only did not observe their pledges concerning noninterference in the affairs of Afghanistan and the provision of facilities for the voluntary and unhindered return of the Afghan refugees, but contrary to the letter and spirit of the aforementioned accords intensified a variety of interferences, including armed interference to the limit of direct internal aggression against the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan. The military training camps, the caches of weapons and ammunition, and the offices and activity of the Afghan armed opposition groups in the territory of Pakistan, not only were not dismantled as stipulated under the Geneva Accords, but were, more than before, expanded and strengthened.

Also in time with the total withdrawal of the Soviet forces at the end of 1367, the so called Consultative Council and the interim government of the groups of seven under direct supervision and instruction of the Military Intelligence of Pakistan and the U.S. advisers, was formed in Rawalpindi. In order to transfer this self-made government to the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan, the plan of an extensive and rapid attack was prepared and put into action by Pakistani Military Intelligence. Furthermore frontal attacks by the armed opposition began against some provinces and cities among them Qandahar, Zabol, Khowst, Konduz, and so forth. Simultaneously all-round steps were taken to block highways and plunder supply convoys by the armed opposition and their protectors aiming to bring down the state of the Republic of Afghanistan through economic blockade. Missile attacks by the extremists on Kabul city and other populated areas intensified as well as engagement in explosions and other terrorist activities and economic sabotage by them. In the course of last year the extremists fired thousands of missiles at Kabul city and other cities and populated regions of the country as a result of which thousands of our compatriots, the majority of whom which were civilians, were martyred or wounded.

Undeniable evidence shows that in all these attacks and military operations by the armed opposition, thousands of militia, troops and military transports of Pakistan, Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries and other countries participated directly.

Meanwhile the Pakistani militarists, with the cooperation of the heads of the extremist Afghan groups resident in Peshawar, drew up the sinister plan of amalgamating Afghanistan in Pakistan under the cover of so called Afghanistan-Pakistan confederation.

It was in such conditions that the being, homeland, and life of the Afghan people and the national interests of the Afghans were threatened: The Republic of Afghanistan had no other way but legitimate defense. The Armed Forces and other heroic defenders of the cities and highways engaged in defending their regions and inflicted shattering blows on the joint invading enemey forces. The heroic defense by the defenders of Jalalabad, Khowst, Qadahar, Zabol, Laghman, and of the highways against the savage assaults by the joint enemy forces is an outstanding example of the heroic defense of the homeland and the national honor of our country.

The armed opposition, despite enjoying the direct and all-round protection of Pakistan, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and some other countries, were not able to achieve even a small military victory. In this way the year which passed proved the futility of fable that the Republic of Afghanistan would collapse after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. It foiled all sinister plans of the extremists and their international backers.

Dear compatriots, along with the necessity for military defense and resistance, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has not for one moment ceased efforts toward achieving the most cherished national aspiration, that is putting an end to war and destruction and the maintenance of peace for the people of Afghanistan. It has patiently pursued the policy of national reconciliation aiming at finding a political solution to the problem of the country.

During the last year we announced and observed unilateral cease-fires on several occasions and asked all armed and non-armed groups to resolve the existing dispute in a spirit of Islamic fraternity and, in consideration of the national interests of Afghanistan, through political means. We stated several times that under the condition that the Soviet forces had pulled out, the continuation of the war would only serve the interests of alien anti-Afghan forces and, except for prolonging the pains of the people, would yield no results.

During this period the state of the Republic of Afghanistan embarked on a series of political initiatives and social and economic transformations. It presented new proposals aimed at ensuring peace and reconciliation among the Afghans. I want to stress again the proposed plan of the Republic of Afghanistan and the mechanism of its implementation which was presented to the ninth session of the Nonaligned Movement held in Belgrade in Sonbola [month begining 23 Aug] of the current year.

We declare once again that the only way to end the 10-year-old war is the path of dialogue and negotiation among all the involved Afghan sides.

In order to create a favorable ground to form a shura [council] and to subsequently hold elections, it is necessary that a cease-fire or halt in combat operations should be enforced for six months throughout Afghanistan. The aforementioned shura should form a coalition government with a broad social basis. Also to create a legal foundation for general elections, it is necessary that a new constitution and law on parliamentary elections should be drafted by the elected commission of the shura to be prepared for approval by the loya Jirga [grand assembly]. After the approval of these laws by the loya Jirga, general elections could be held to elect a new government. These elections could be held under international supervision. The new structure for joint armed forces in the final stage after the formation of a broadly based government has also been included in our peace plan.

Furthermore, we have announced that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan will accept any results of the free elections, and it will not resort to using force or power to change their results. If the other side makes such a commitment, such a realistic plan will meet the legitimate interests of all the various groups and forces of Afghan society and can bring a durable peace in the country.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan attaches great importance to the role of the UN secretary general and his efforts to encourage dialogue among Afghans; and it is ready to cooperate with any UN plan that will be acceptable to all the hostile sides

It is obvious to all that the leaders of the extremist opposition formations have not only rejected all these peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan, but have so far not proposed any plan of their own for the peaceful solution of the issue and continue obstinately in their warmongering and irreconcilable policy.

Without waiting for a reply to our peace proposals from the leaders of the formations, we continue to hold talks and negotiations with commanders inside the country, with a number of the formations and Afghan personalities resident abroad among those in the west.

During the last year around 30,000 armed men, previously oppositionists, have joined the national reconciliation policy and are engaged in ensuring peace in their regions and localities. Protocols have been signed with a large number of them and negotiations are continuing with another number of them. At the present two-thirds of the local commanders understand the uselessness of the imposed war and do not take part in anti-state combat operations.

Also during the last year we have taken several measures to improve the living conditions of the people and to revive the economy of the country. During this period 38 productive firms and economic projects have been revived and the revival of 93 projects is underway. Improvements have appeared in the condition of transportation and the supply of foodstuffs and fuel. During the past year, the state has transported more than 500,000 tonnes of goods needed by the people from Hayratan to Kabul.

In recent days, we have sent letters and messages addressed to heads of the various countries, leaders of parties and social organizations and parliaments of a number of countries in the world, and to a number of Afghans resident in Europe and the United States and other countries. Having explained the political-military situation of the country, we have asked for their help to end the war and ensure peace in the land of the Afghans. We have also invited Afghan personalities resident in Europe and the United States to come back to the country, and with a feeling of full safety, hold talks on ensuring peace.

As in the past years the peace-seeking and patriotic proposals of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan increasingly supported by Afghans inside and outside the country, and the prestige and credibility of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan in the international arena, has also been further enhanced. At present time international society, countries of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and international opinion including the Western countries, are increasingly taking a position in support of the peace-seeking policy of the government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

However, the armed opposition formations, despite the fact that they have been enjoying all-round support of Pakistan, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and a number of other countries, have neither achieved the slightest victory in the military field nor in the politicl arena. Differences between the chieftains of the formations stationed in Peshawar stemming mostly from self-interest, have been intensified to the limit of bloody clashes. The so-called transitional government of the opposition in Pakistan has not been recognized even by its founding countries. This matter has furthermore reduced its credibility at the international level. On the other hand, the indifference of the chieftains of the extremist forces to the national interests of Afghanistan, and their total attachment to the intelligence service of Pakistan, the United States, Saudi Wahhabis, have furthemore exposed their anti-national feature to the people of Afghanistan. Under these circumstances, regrettably,

some of the chieftains of the extremist opposition formations still do not want to learn from past years and accept realities. On one hand—contrary to the provisions of the sacred religion of Islam and contrary to the will and wishes of the overwhelming majority of the people of Afghanistan—they continue the fratricidal war with the people for the interest of foreign countries, and on the other hand, they still want to embark on unilateral actions for the creation of a so-called shura and another government in the alien territory. They adopt measures that have taken place in the past many times but did not produce any satisfactory result.

Once again we invite the opposition forces to come to their senses and we again declare that we can and must convene in Kabul, Qandahar, or Jalalabad the Afghans' national Shura in which all forces, groups, formations, and Afghan personalities residing inside and outside Afghanistan, can take part in the presence of special envoy of the UN secretary general and goodwill mission of this organization. Naturally, the government will guarantee the safety of all and every participant. As the aspiration of peace requires further efforts by all Afghans I would like to put forward a number of other proposals:

To prepare the ground for the safe convocation and operation of the Afghan's Meli Shura the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposes:

A cease-fire or break in the combat operations of both sides should be announced and observed.

Furthermore, for the purpose of a military cease-fire in the whole country we can first announce a cease-fire in the (?eastern section).

To prevent the massacre of the cities' people and residential regions by extremist opposition groups' rockets, the government is prepared to stop firing long-range Scud missiles at the positions of the armed oppositions in return for a cessation of the extremists' launching rockets at Kabul City and other cities of the country.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is proposing that a delegation from Kabul travel to Peshawar, Quetta, and Tehran to hold talks with groups to search for ways to politically solve disputed issues and to prepare the ground for the convocation of Shura in Afghanistan. If the opposition does not agree with the dispatch of delegation representing the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan we can appoint and dispatch a totally nongovernmental and nonparty delegation consisting of high-ranking clergymen and ulema, socio-political figures, and other intelligentsia not attached to the Government or to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA].

We also propose that a number of representatives of Afghan groups and formations, as well as independent Afghan individuals and figures residing outside the country, travel to Kabul. It is not necessary that at first they should hold talks with government and party authorities in Kabul. They can, with full freedom, see those people they want to see and become more familiar with the existing situation and public opinion in the country. They can be fully assured of their safety in Kabul and the possibility of their return abroad.

On the basis of (?military observations) we propose that in the event of agreement by the opposition (?leaders) an authoritative joint commission is to be formed to consider the issue of release and swap of Afghan and Soviet prisoners and POWs who have been jailed by both sides.

To consider and control the observation of human rights in Afghanistan the government proposes that an impartial delegation should be appointed by the Human Rights Commission to commence operation in the regions where the opposition operates and regions under the control of government. We can also commission a separate international delegation for control, prevention, growing, and traffic of narcotic substances.

To further stimulate economic activities for the reconstruction of Afghanistan we invite all people of Afghanistan, inside and outside of Afghanistan—including workers, intelligentsia, traders, owners of national industries, clergymen, Armed Forces personnel, leaders of clans and tribes, as well as Armed Forces commanders—to take part in the economic activities of the country and to make investment with perception of responsibility and confidence. The government will design incentive measures for setting up joint enterprises on the basis of mixed investments.

A number of Afghan, tribal and Pakistani traders received serious losses as a result of the lack of complete security along Jalalabad-To'rkham highway. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposes this highway should be proclaimed as a peace corridor and all military operations should be ceased there and the highway be opened for traffic and transportation of commercial goods.

Here I wanted to address the West European and U.S. Governments. If the Afghanistan problem is not resolved by peaceful means as soon as possible; if a powerful, broad-based, central government is not created; if the legal sovereignty in regions controlled by the opposition is not revived, this will involve undesirable consequences for peace and for international security in the region. In addition, it will cause irreparable damage to the Western countries' young generation because the intense production and trafficking of narcotics in some regions controlled by the opposition will continue.

On the basis of Afghanistan's peace-seeking foreign policy based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, good-neighborliness, and reciprocal advantageous cooperation, we propose that goodwill delegations of the Republic of Afghanistan travel to Islamabad, Tehran, Beijing, Washington, and the capitals of a number of other countries, to try to normalize relations with them. Of course, we will also warmly receive the delegations of

these countries in Kabul. These delegations can be governmental, parliamentary, or consist of nongovernmental or nonparty figures.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan will, on the one hand, confidently defend itself in the military sphere, and on the other, continue the national reconciliation policy, and seek the cohesion of all political forces in support of peace in a united front. This will be done to realize the policy of national reconciliation. Also, the state will embark on the introduction of necessary changes in the charter and aims of the PDPA, provide suitable conditions for political parties' effective activity inside the country, work toward expanding democracy, and devote attention to the people's living conditions. This will begin in accord with the policy of national reconciliation and this policy of realization of reforms, in consideration of the specific peculiarities of the Afghan society. The series of measures will continue to be taken in the future.

Dear compatriots, now when one year has passed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it is clearer than ever that the cessation of war through talks and compromise is the demand of every patriotic Afghan, be they inside or outside the country. We deem ourselves pledged before Almighty God and before our Muslim and persecuted people that we will not spare any effort and sacrifice in the way of the realization of the policy of national reconciliation policy and the maintenance of peace as a sacred Islamic and national duty. Success comes from God.

Mujahidin Call on Gorbachev To End Kabul Support

BK1502132890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 15 Feb 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 15 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin called Thursday [15 February] on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, whose troops pulled out of Afghanistan a year ago, to end support for "communist puppets" in Kabul while it was "not too late."

Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, prime minister of the interim government declared by the Moslem guerrillas, also cautioned former Afghan King Zaher Shah, 74, to "stay in exile in Rome and pray for the success of our fight."

Both Soviet and Kabul authorites have suggested there might be a role in a political solution to the war for the aging former monarch, whose 40-year rule ended when he was deposed in 1973, but who retains popularity among Afghan refugees in Pakistan camps.

Mr. Sayyaf told reporters here that the Soviet interference continued in Aghanistan despite the pullout of Moscow's forces on February 15, 1989. "The Soviets have officially withdrawn from Afghanistan, but they have changed methods and tactics, and their military and non-military interference continues in our country," Mr. Sayyaf said.

Rejecting the Kremlin's "bluff" and "ruse," Mr. Sayyaf said it was "not too late to call on the Soviet leaders to end their support for the communist puppets" of the Kabul regime and "to think of their future relations with an Islamic government in Aghanistan." "This will spare them the embarrassment of another defeat," said Mr. Sayyaf, leader of the Etehad-e Eslami, one of the seven Sunni factions of the Pakistan-based guerrilla resistance.

His head wrapped in a voluminous turban, Mr. Sayyaf said through his long salt-and-pepper beard that the "jihad (holy war) launched 10 years ago by the Afghan mujahidin was not only against the Soviet military invasion, but also against the (communist) ideology they brought with them."

In a reference to the Soviet-backed government of Afghan President Najibullah and his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Mr. Sayyaf said that "as long as that ideology is not completely eliminated, our forces will continue to struggle for the creation of an Islamic state in Afghanistan." [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Supports Tajikistan 'Freedom Movement'

BK1502133990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1329 GMT 15 Feb 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Feb 15 (AFP)—A top Afghan guerrilla leader pledged Thursday the full support of his powerful group for Muslims in Tajikistan and blamed Moscow for the problems in the Islamic republic bordering Afghanistan.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, chief of one of the strongest military groups in the seven-party rebel alliance based in this northwest Pakistan city, also said the 1979 Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan had helped reestablish links between the Tajiks and their Muslim brethren in Afghanistan.

"We have the same language, the same culture, the same religion and even ancestors in common," said the chief of the Jamiat-e Eslami, whose field commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud has influence extending through several northern provinces along the border with the Soviet Union, including Tajikistan.

Mr. Mas'ud, himself an ethnic Tajhik, in a statement received here Wednesday renewed a call to Muslims in the Soviet Union to break from Moscow. His statement was made before a state of emergency was declared Monday in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, where by official count 37 people have been killed in anti-Armenian clashes.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Mr. Rabbani said the Afghan mujahidin, which includes

members of the majority Pashtoons alongside ethnic Tajiks, Uzbeks, Turkmenis and other groups living in Afghanistan that follow Islam, were in "complete solidarity" with their Soviet Tajik brothers.

Mr. Rabbani, himself a Tajik, denied that Muslim groups had been inciting the trouble in Dushanbe. "The present upheaval is an internal revolt after the 70 years of subjugation," he said. But he added that "it is likely that the Afghans living on this side could create complications for the Soviets" if they persisted with a crackdown in the Central Asia republics.

He also called on the Muslim world and the non-aligned movement to come to the help of the people in Tajikistan. Mr. Rabbani described the riots in Tajikistan, which were triggered by rumours that thousands of refugees were to be resettled in prime housing, as a "freedom movement." He said "I will ask all the freedom-loving countries not to allow the Soviet forces to suppress the legitimate and holy desire of the Muslim people."

Another resistance leader, Mas'ud Khalili, said the Afghjan mujahidin were watching the situation in Tajikistan closely. He also said that the Soviet intervention had helped reestablish links between Tajiks and Muslims in Afghanistan adding that Soviet soldiers conscripted from Tajikistan had been reluctant to fire on Afghan Muslims. "They even sold their Kalashnikov rifles to purchase the Holy Koran," he claimed, adding that Moscow was forced to withdraw the Tajhik soldiers after seeing the "tremendous affinity and cordiality" among the co-religionists.

Mr. Khalili said that "from the very beginning we knew that the Afghan war would have an impact in the (Soviet) Muslim republics," adding that "a message went across the borders that if Afghans can do it, why can't you too?"

Mr. Rabbani, however, said that the world had only taken note of the Afghan problem after 1.5 million people had died in the name of freedom. "World leaders should break their silence before Tajikistan becomes another Afghanistan," he said.

The resistance has units based in Faizabad, provincial capital of Badakhshan, which faces Tajikistan. Resistance sources said that hundreds of Islamic religious books had been smuggled across the 2,000-kilometre (1,240-mile) long border with the Soviet Union since 1979.

Some 29 million people live in three of the Muslim-dominated Soviet republics just across the border—Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan—and demographic experts reckon that by the turn of the century Muslims will account for 25 per cent of the total population of the Soviet Union.

The border was drawn up in the 19th century when Britain and Russia were trying to extend their influence at the other's expense in what became known as "the great game."

Mujahidin Spokesman Rejects Role for Najibullah

LD1602100390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] A spokesman for the nine-party Coalition Council of Afghanistan announced in a radio, television, and press conference this morning that the nine-party coalition council is opposed to the participation of Najibullah, the head of the Kabul regime, in the future government of Afghanistan; and nor does it see any role for Zahir Shah in the future government of Afghanistan either.

During this news conference, which was also attended by foreign reporters resident in Tehran, Mohammad Eshaq Akhlaqi, spokesman of the nine-party Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan, said in reply to a question about the Soviet plan for the demilitarization of Afghanistan: The Afghan nation should decide its fate itself and they do not require any guardian. He added: We need neither U.S. guardianship nor Soviet guardianship.

With regard to the council's plan for the future government of Afghanistan, the spokesman for the nine-party Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan said: We want a government for Afghanistan which will be independent and free, which will not be dependent on either the East or the West, and which is based on Islamic principles. Referring to the plan for elections in Afghanistan, he said: Our criticism of that plan is that the formula for the elections should be drawn up by a joint commission composed of the seven-party coalition based in Pakistan, the nine-party Coalition Council based in Iran, and other established mujahedin groups.

With regard to the possible participation of Zahir Shah in the future government of Afghanistan which is being promulgated by the foreign media, he said: Zahir Shah has had no role in the ten-year long jihad and struggle of the Muslim Afghan nation and we do not believe that he has any right in the future government of Afghanistan.

Stressing that about a quarter of Afghan territory is under the control of the nine-party Coalition Council, the spokesman referred to the council's various activities in the military and cultural fields inside Afghan territory and emphasized the Afghan nation's need for foreign assistance.

According to our correspondent's report, other members from the nine-party Islamic Coalition Council of Afghanistan from various groups in the world were also present at this news conference. [sentence as heard]

Mujahidin on Plan To Hold Assembly Elections

BK1602013890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister of the Interim Government of Afghanistan, Professor Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, has said all groups of mujahidin have agreed on the basic structure of the elected shura [consultative assembly] and the details about it will be announced soon. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said persons with (?sound) experience have been inducted in the election commission. Iranian-based mujahidin have also been represented in the commission. Professor Sayyaf categorically stated that the people of his country will decide their future by themselves and will not accept any outside formula. He denied any differences among mujahidin, adding we are fully determined to achieve final victory.

India

Spokesman Rejects Sri Lankan Minister's Charges

BK1502160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] India today rejected as irresponsible and motivated the reported allegations made by the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, that the Research and Analysis Wing, RAW, was trying to create trouble in his country. Replying to newsmen's query, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that there is no truth whatsoever in the allegations made.

Mr Wijeratne reportedly made the controversial remarks at an all party conference in Colombo yesterday.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil Pays Visit

Briefs Gujral on Afghan Situation

BK1302080490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil, met the external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral, in New Delhi this morning. He briefed Mr. Gujral on the latest situation in Afghanistan.

This is the first high-level contact between the Kabul government and the new government in New Delhi.

Condemns Pakistan on Kashmir

BK1302162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Afghanistan has strongly condemned Pakistan's involvement in Jammu and Kashmir and extended its wholehearted support to India's unity and integrity. The visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil, during official talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in New Delhi today denounced the activities of the Pakistan-based Afghan mujahidin under the direct control of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence agency. The Afghan side pointed out that the hand of Pakistan and its specialized agencies can be clearly seen in terrorist acts in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir.

Discusses Bilateral Ties

LD1402102990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 13, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), met with Kumar Inder Gujral, Indian minister of external affairs, today in New Delhi.

During this a tete-a-tete talks the sides exchanged views on situation in the two countries and in the region and stressed on the ever further expansion and strengthening of existing relations between the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] and the Republic of India in the interest of peace and security in the region and people of the two countries, reported a BAKHTAR reporter.

The first round of talks between the two foreign ministers took place in a frank and friendly atmosphere and complete understanding.

Based on another report, the foreign affairs minister of Afghanistan met with the trade minister of India today as well. During the meeting views were exchanged on the prospects and possibilities of expansion of trade relations between the RA and India. The sides stressed that vast possibilities are existing for expansion of commercial and economic relations between the two countries and it was decided that the issue should be discussed in detail at the 9th round of sessions of the Afghan-Indian joint commission for economic cooperation due to be held in New Delhi in the near future. The report adds that 'Abdul Wakil met with the editors-in-chief of the distinguished Indian newspapers, socio-political personabites and well-known scholars of the Republic of India today.

During the meeting he replied to the questions concerning the socio-political developments in the RA. 'Abdul Wakil arrived to New Delhi for an official and friendly visit yesterday.

Discusses Kashmir With Gujral

BK1402040890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistani interference in India's internal affairs figured prominently in the talks between India and Afghanistan in New Delhi this afternoon. The foreign minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Abdul Wakil, strongly condemned Pakistani support to the secessionists in Jammu and Kashmir. He was also critical of Pakistan's attempt to internationalize the Kashmir situation by trying to bring it up at the United Nations or the Islamic Conference.

The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, reiterated India's support for a political settlement of the Afghan question within the UN framework.

Mr. Wakil appealed to India to play a bigger role in bringing the UN secretary general's efforts to a satisfactory conclusion. Both sides emphasized the need for regular contacts in view of the rapid developments in the region. On the role of the United States and the superpower talks on Afghanistan, there was close identity of perception. In the field of economic cooperation, public health, transportation, industry, and training of national cadres, areas needing urgent attention were identified.

The Afghan foreign minister also had a meeting with the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru. The visiting dignitary was told that an action plan is being drawn up to double India's trade with Afghanistan, which now stands at about 56 crore rupees. Mr Wakil said Afghanistan would always give priority to India among its trading partners and called for a free [word indistinct] trade between the two countries. He also said that there are no restrictions on imports of Indian goods into Afghanistan.

Meets Prime Minister Singh

BK1402160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] India has reaffirmed its support for a negotiated settlement of the Afghan question, taking into account the existing realities. New Delhi's stand was conveyed by the prime minister when the visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil, called on him in New Delhi today. Other aspects of bilateral relations also figured in the talks, which lasted about 40 minutes. The prospects of doubling the trade between two countries were also discussed.

The Afghan foreign minister also made a courtesy call on the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna.

Charges Pakistani 'Conspiracy'

BK1502092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Afghanistan has charged Pakistan with a conspiracy to colonize it under a confederation plan. The visiting Afghan foreign minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil, while making this accusation in New Delhi today, released the secret notes from Islamabad's Inter Services Intelligence addressed to the then Pakistani President Ziaul Haq in support of his argument. He said the plan envisaged abolition of frontiers between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a pro-Pakistani government in Kabul, and a common economic structure.

Mr Wakil told a news conference that Pakistan's intention is to have access to uranium fields in Afghanistan to further its nuclear program. The Afghan foreign minister emphasized that no Afghan will agree to the proposal, which affects the honor and integrity of the country.

Accusing Pakistan of flouting the Geneva Accord and keeping the Afghan refugees as collective hostages for its own ends, Mr Wakil said India can use its influence over various Afghan political forces for a peaceful settlement.

He described the recently concluded talks between the superpowers on Afghanistan as a positive development, but added that one should wait and see what constructive changes it brings about. Mr Wakil appealed to the international community for help in ending hostilities in Afghanistan and welcomed everyone, including the former king, Zahir Shah, to strengthen the reconciliation process.

Describing his talks with the Indian leaders as useful and constructive, Mr Wakil hoped that Afghanistan's efforts to join SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] will succeed in the near future.

V.P. Singh on Pakistani Defense Budget, Kashmir

BK1502145190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said his government will never compromise with anyone on the question of the country's unity and integrity. Addressing several public meetings in Rajasthan today, he said the country's Army is second to none and is fully capable of defending the country. He said Pakistan is increasing its defense budget every year and acquiring sophisticated arms and ammunition.

Referring to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he said security forces are capable of checking any intrusion from across the border.

British Minister Conveys Stand on Kashmir

BK1602034690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Britain wants all bilateral issues between India and Pakistan to be resolved peacefully and in accordance with the Simla Agreement. The British stand was conveyed by their minister of state in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord Brabazon of Tara, during his meetings with External Affairs Minister Mr. Gujral and the foreign secretary, Mr S.K. Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. The visiting minister emphasized that his government's policy was quite clear on the Kashmir issue despite attempts by some Pakistanis in the UK to raise the matter.

LTTE Delegation Arrives for Talks on Tamil Issue

BK1602033890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The four-member LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation from Colombo arrived in Madras last night for discussions with the Tamil Nadu

chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, on the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. The delegation is led by Mr Anton Balasingham.

This is the second round of talks on the issue the delegation is having with the chief minister. They held discussions with Mr Karunanidhi last December.

Gujral Departs on Official Visit to Bangladesh

BK1602075490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, left New Delhi for Dhaka today on an official visit to Bangladesh. During his three-day visit, Mr. Gujral will have talks with the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Anisul Mahmud, besides meetings with President Ershad and other leaders. Sharing of Ganges water, influx of Chakma tribes into India, transfer of Teen Bigha [border conclave], and issue of illegal immigration will figure during the talks.

Commenting on the visit of Mr. Gujral, the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr. Anisul Mahmud, said it will be a step forward in improving ties between the two countries. He said the whole gamut of bilateral, regional, and international issues will come up for discussion.

Mr. Gujral's visit is the first high-level contact between India and Bangladesh after the new government assumed office in New Delhi.

'High-Level Committee' To Resolve Shrine Dispute

BK1502162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The government has announced the constitution of a high-level committee to talk to various groups connected with the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue for finding an amicable solution. The committee comprises the finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate; the railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes; and the UP [Uttar Pradesh] health minister, Mr. Mukhtar Anis.

In a statement in New Delhi, the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, appealed to all concerned with the issue to extend their full cooperation to the committee. He expressed the hope that eminent and distinguished citizens will also help the committee to find an acceptable solution. The home minister, meanwhile, urged all those involved in the issue not to take any precipitate action, in the interest of communal harmony. He expressed his satisfaction that the prime minister's appeal earlier this month was endorsed by all concerned parties, and this has created a conducive atmosphere for discussion and dialogue which can lead to an amicable solution.

The Congress-I says a judicial verdict can only solve the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid controversy. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, a party spokesman said the postponement of the construction of the temple by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] is a stage-managed affair.

Indian Airlines Airbus Crashes Near Bangalore

BK1502015490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1751 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Bangalore, India, Feb 14 (AFP)—An Indian Airlines Airbus on a scheduled domestic flight crashed and burst into flames while preparing to land in this southern Indian city Wednesday [14 February], killing 89 people, airline sources said. Flight IC605 crashed in bright and sunny weather some 150 feet (45 meters) short of the runway at Bangalore airport two hours after taking off from the western port city of Bombay. The almost brand-new 168-seater plane, carrying 139 passengers and a crew of seven, was to have gone to the temple town of Madurai in southern Tamil Nadu State after a stop here. Fifty-seven people survived the crash, one of the worst in Indian aviation history and the first involving an Airbus A-320 on a commercial flight.

Indian Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan, who arrived here along with a team of top airline officials from New Delhi, ordered an investigation into the disaster. He said a high court judge would hold the enquiry and announced compensation of 500,000 rupees (30,300 U.S. dollars) for families of each of the adults killed in the crash. [passage omitted]

There was no official word on what could have caused the crash, which occurred exactly two hours after the plane took off from Bombay at 11:25 a.m. (0555 GMT). According to state-run television, some passengers said they had heard a loud "thud" before the accident, which killed 85 people on the spot and four in hospital, where 57 survivors including an air hostess were admitted. [passage omitted]

Four infants and 17 foreigners, including West German, Japanese, British, American and French passengers, were on the flight.

Bangalore's Additional Commissioner of Police S. Mariswamy said victims' families were mobbing the two hospitals near the airport where the injured had been ferried. "I think the plane burst after hitting the ground, but I am not sure," he said. [passage omitted]

The belly of the aircraft was torn open and the twin engines melted in the fire which occurred after the Airbus hit the embankment of a dry stream.

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said in a message that "no words can fully express the immense grief caused by such great loss of human lives" and expressed his sympathy for the victims.

The cause of the crash was unknown, although an airline spokesman said the weather was "fine" and that the plane could have crashed due to "some technical fault." Another airline spokesman said that only a detailed

investigation could establish the cause of the crash, adding that there were no signs to indicate sabotage.

In Toulouse, southern France, the Airbus consortium said a team of experts had left for India to "help investigate" the crash. [passage omitted]

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 1530 GMT on 14 February carries a report adding: "The airbus A-320 aircraft on flight IC-605 took off from Bombay at 1140 [0610 GMT] after its first sortie to Goa this morning. According to a survivor among the passengers, Mrs. Narup Sadhwa, the flight prior to the landing was smooth and perfect and there was no announcement indicating any danger before the crash. An eyewitness to the tragedy said the plane turned into a fireball after crashing into the dry bed of a tank with a big bang. Soon the aircraft was on fire. Our correspondent who visited the scene of the tragedy says that the whole aircraft has been reduced to a mass of metal with the debris strewn all over the area."]

3 'Terrorists,' 8 Others Killed in Punjab Violence

BK1602040890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] A hard-core terrorist, Mithu Singh, a self-styled area commander of the Khalistan Liberation Organization, and two other terrorists were among 11 people killed in violence in Punjab during the last 24 hours. State Police Chief K.P.S. Gill said that Mithu Singh and his accomplice were shot dead in inter-gang warfare in Fardikot District today. Mithu Singh was responsible for scores of killings and robberies.

The police chief said that the three terrorists, wearing Army uniforms, went to the house of a former major, Mula Singh, at Kehra village in Jullundhur District today and opened fire, killing him and his grandson on the spot. He said security force personnel encircled the area immediately and spotted the terrorists. In the ensuing encounter, one of them was killed while others escaped.

Naxalites Abduct 2 Officials in Nizamabad

BK1502124890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] struck again in Nizamabad District, kidnapping an excise subinspector and a constable at Barotia village this afternoon. Reports say the two officials were abducted while they were going in a jeep on official duty to the village.

Drug Seizure 'Largest on Record in India'

BK0902103090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1016 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 9 (AFP)—Police in Bombay seized heroin valued at 242 million U.S. dollars on the international drug market Friday [9 February] in the country's biggest drug bust, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Some 400 kilograms (880 pounds) of medium-grade heroin or "brown sugar" were seized from a parked truck in the busy neighbourhood of Parel, PTI said, adding that the cache had been stashed in lime bags.

No one has been arrested in connection with the haul, which police said would bring 600,000 dollars per kilogram (2.2 pounds) in the international drug market.

The news agency gave no further details of the seizure but officials say the haul is the largest on record in India.

The domestic cost of heroin is one-quarter the international cost, authorities here said. India has historically been less a user nation than a transit point for narcotics en route to the West from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan.

The transit route has now shifted from India to the Balkan states, from which point drug supplies are shipped to North America and Europe, officials said.

Heroin seizures for 1989 totalled 2,200 kilograms (4,840 pounds) compared with a record 3,029 kilograms (6,663 pounds) in 1988.

Calcutta Site of International Satellite Station

BK1502074990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] An international satellite station will come up in Calcutta by the end of this year. Disclosing this to newsmen in Calcutta, the communications and surface transport minister, Mr K.P. Unnikrishnan, said 100,000 new telephone connections will be available in the city by this year end. A task force has been set up to identify the problems of the entire telephone system in Calcutta.

Mr Unnikrishnan said the center is trying to streamline the port operations at Calcutta, Haldia, and Pradweep. He said following dredging operations, the depth of the River Hugli has increased both at Calcutta and Haldia.

Iran

Comment on Khomeyni Execution Decree on Rushdie

Mohtashemi: Rushdie 'Apostate'

LD1502215790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] On the occasion of the issuance of the edict by his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, on the author of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses," and to honor the memory of the martyrs of the blood-stained demonstrations of the people of India and Pakistan following the issuance of the edict of his holiness the imam, this afternoon the Foundation of

the Martyrs of the Islamic Revolution conducted a memorial service at Arak Mosque in Tehran. Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majlis, a number of Majlis deputies, civilian and military officials, and Hezbollah people attended the ceremonies.

At the ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi spoke on Salman Rushdie being an apostate.

Khatami Urges No Weakness

LD1502191690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] This week's political roundtable on the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Iranian television, second channel] was devoted to the investigation of the conspiracy regarding the publication of "The Satanic Verses" and the effect of the fatwa of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in this roundtable, which was composed of Mr. Khatami, minister of Islamic guidance, Mr. Mahajerani, deputy president in charge of parliamentary and legal affairs, and Mr. Firuzan, the managing director of Sorush publications, Mr. Khatami referred to the fact the writing of "The Satanic Verses" as a crime and the need for punishing its author is not limited to Shiism. He said:

The fatwa of his eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, is accepted as a fundamental Islamic decree by all Muslims. Referring to the fact that in our divine system we deal with our opponents through logic and argument and that we have an open mind, the minister of Islamic guidance said: Of course, this approach is different toward someone who insults our beliefs and our sanctities.

The book, "The Satanic Verses," lacks logic and is entirely full of insults and abusive language. As a character, the author of the book is an agent and mercenary of world arrogance. Stressing that this matter is not merely the offense committed by one person, and that it has been turned into a calculated move against Islam, Mr. Khatami said: With this action, the confrontation of arrogance with Islam was in the form of a declaration of war by the West against Islam, and the fatwa issued by his eminence the imam was an edict about the death of arrogance and the death of Western domination over the lives of the Muslims and the oppressed of the world.

In his roundtable, Mr. Mahajerani, referring to the reasons for the publication of "The Satanic Verses" said: The time of the publication of this book was when Islam was regarded as an awakening movement in the world, especially in its center, Iran. He added: The Westerners imagined that after the publication of that book, in addition to causing differences among the Muslims, they also would create doubts in the hearts of the combative Muslims for continuing their path in the future.

They also imagined that after the [UN] resolution [598], the Islamic Republic of Iran had been weakened, and it was time to deliver a blow. After the publication of the book, however, his eminence the imam issued his fatwa with such decisiveness it led to an amazing unity among the Muslims of the world. With this fatwa, hHis eEminence the imam showed to those who attack the main centers of Islam that an attack should be launched against their own main centers. He also decribed the Muslims of the world regaining of their identity and the confirmation of the international leadership of his eminence the imam as other consequences of the fatwa of the imam.

Continuing this roundtable, Mr. Firuzan, referring to the fact the present century [not specified whether 20th century or Islamic Hegira century that started in November 1979] is the century of religious thoughts and religious leaning, said: In view of the various dimensions of Islam and its attractiveness, what will be the main issue in the future will be Islam. In "The Satanic Verses," therefore, the attack is concentrated on two points: first, the prophet, and second, the Koran. Both of them precisely are the two special characteristics of Islam, and it is these two points which in the future will provide food for the thoughts of the people.

In this roundtable, the minister of Islamic guidance, referring to future trends, said: At the moment, the West clearly has realized that it has lost in this affair. It is trying to confuse the issue and do something so the fatwa of the imam is moderated, the anger of the Muslims toward Salman Rushdie is reduced, and it can change the issue through compromising individuals.

It should be made clear here if any weakness is shown in this matter, none of the Muslims in any corner of the world will be able to enjoy intellectual freedom. The minister of culture and Islamic guidance added: In any case, the anonymous soldiers of Imam Khomeyni throughout the world will keep this verdict alive.

IPO Praises Decree

LD1402180890 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's decree sanctioning execution of the apostate Salman Rushdie was today described as a "tidal wave" against global arrogance, by the Islamic Propogation Organisation [IPO].

In its statement on the first anniversary of the late imam's decree, IPO termed it the "revolutionary wrath of Islam to defend the sanctity of divine religions.

"The decree served to further awaken world Muslims." it added.

Islam rules death penalty for apostacy, and Rushdie who got the deserved sentence for authoring the sacriligious novel "The Satanic Verses", is in hiding under British police protection ever since, with an aroused ummah intent on carrying out divine justice.

Britain's rash attitude towards the satanic affair resulted in the rupture of ties with the Islamic Republic after a week-long ultimatum by the Majlis late last February.

The IPO statement referred to the fear of global arrogance from awakened Muslims, and said a year after the issuance of the decree, its effects are still apparent on British policies, which last week led to the deportation of more Iranian Muslims including students from the British Isles.

On various occasions Iranian officials have reiterated the validity of the decree, which global arrogance wrongly thought would become null following the passing away of Imam Khomeyni, it said.

West 'Perplexed' by Decree

LD1402180990 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—The Persian daily KAYHAN today pitied the West for failing to understand Imam Khomeyni's binding decree calling for execution of apostate Salman Rushdie with political decision-making.

In a commentary on the first anniversary of the imam's decree against the Indian-born British writer of "The Satanic Verses", the daily said that insistence of Iranian political officials on the validity of the verdict seems to have perplexed political circles in the Western bloc.

Apostacy is punishable by death in Islam, and KAYHAN noted that the late leader of the Islamic revolution's firm stand on divine laws and the continued affirmation of the fatwa by Iranian officials during the past year has placed the Islamic Republic in a "vantage position" vis-a-vis global arrogance.

It said the imam's decree mobilized the ummah and demonstrated its unity to the world. The year 1989 was exemplary to the West as well as to Muslims and to the British apostate Rushdie who, the paper said, has since then "hovered between life and death."

The commentary said Salman Rushdie is now "the weakness incarnate of the West—a West which is unable to create safe borders for the free living of a citizen. In the wake of Imam Khomeyni's decree the case of Rushdie is like that of a group described in the Holy Koran as being neither dead nor alive."

It concluded by saying: "On the basis of Imam Khomeyni's verdict the brand of literature that will henceforth survive the passage of time is one which will respect religious sanctities, and has a commitment to lofty human values."

Rafsanjani Leads Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1602124290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Muslim compatriots all over the country observed the politico-religious rites of Friday prayers today. The people of Tehran congregated at Tehran University and the adjacent streets today to uphold that Mohamadan tradition under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In the second sermon of Friday prayers, the president of the Republic thanked our compatriots for their massive and solid presence at the marches of the Day of God, 22 Bahman [11 February]. He described it as a very effective, timely, and appropriate move, and said that the presence of the people in that countrywide march, aimed at forging bonds with the imam and pledging allegiance to the leader—commanding such expanision and sincerity and having such revolutionary slogans—was an iron fist in the face of insincere and mendacious people.

The march, coming after the passing away of his holiness the imam and the election of the great leader, served as yet another test for our people. Since the election of the great leader such a pledge of allegiance with such a massive presence had not been asked of the people. Despite snow and rain, our people throughout the country participated in that great countrywide march. The march for forging bonds with the imam and pledge of allegiance to the leader again underscored the reality of the thought and the path of our nation.

If the reactionary rulers and the news media of the world of arrogance are fair and have commonsense they must admit that the decisive majority of our people are sincerely in line and in step with the revolution. By participating in the Day of God, our people gladden the spirit of his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and they also gave heart to the country's officials, making them more hopeful.

Although the Western media only reported the presence of one million people in the Tehran march, yet the march of even one million people in Tehran is in itself an admission of the broad presence of the people in Tehran and the towns all over the country. Despite a three-day holiday in Tehran and despite the snow and mud on the streets the people participated in the 22 Bahman march in glorious fashion.

Hojjat ol-eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the core of the matter is that the claimants to governance and leadership in the world of arrogance are opposed, with all their existernce, to Islam being accepted in society as a desirable sovereign regime and so it is difficult for them to find out that a successful example of Islamic resurgence has surfaced in the world. And the existence of an Islamic regime capable of presenting Islamic rules in line with the requirements of the time is an unprecedented phenomenon in the world, and it has materialized in Islamic Iran.

We have no doubt that Islam is the best regime for the conduct of all human societies in the world. But global arrogance does not intend to allow such a reality to take place. They have come to fight us, armed with all sorts of accusations. They describe our society as an oppressed one despite the fact the people are massively present in the Friday prayer ceremonies and great marches during the past 11 years, and despite the fact that the platform of the Islamic Consultative Assembly is available freely for the world to hear. Yet, despite so much oppression in [Saudi] Arabia they call it a desirable country. That is the extent to which they confront us with ill intentions. The publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" is another example of such blind and distorted moves.

With regard to its contents, that book cannot be regarded as an ordinary book concerned with logical arguments and freedom of speech. The blasphemous book is an impolite onslaught against the sanctities of Islam. And an edict with regard to an aggressive and abusive person is different from that regarding a logical person with whom one may argue. The edict of his holiness the imam against the apostate author of the book "The Satanic Verses" is an expert Islamic view and as such it does not need the sensationalism which has been created by the enemies of Islam. Indeed, the roots of that sensationalism lie in the fact that they intend to accuse Islam and the revolution of being opposed to freedom of speech and writing. In this they in fact reveal their hatred of Islam.

If they view the issue wisely and logically, it will then transpire that the imam's edict is an Islamic expert edict and nothing else. Now, if an expert states his views on an issue it does not require sensationalism and hue and cry. It is in that light that many Islamic ulema and Sunnis have officially endorsed the edict of the his holiness the imam on the apostate author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses."

The president of the Republic went on to say: Global arrogance does not intend to allow the message that Islam is capable of being a viable political regime in human society to go beyond the border of Islamic Iran. However, we, who have achieved all our strength and identity from Islam, are ready to offer whatever we possess on the path of God and Islam.

Referring to the approval and advice of the five-year development plan, the president of Republic stressed in his second sermon that preparations have been made to implementing a part of the plan according to which all industrial plants and centers of production must reach full capacity. We hope that the owners of production units will welcome the plan. We also hope that the merchants and tradesmen will be content with a reasonable profit so that the undesirable situation in the distribution of goods may be reformed.

In another part of the second sermon of Friday prayers, the president of Republic referred to the anniversary of the missile attack by the Iraqi regime against the passenger aircraft carrying the representative of his holiness the imam on the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, as well as a number of the his best companions, and praised the services of those esteemed martyrs.

Minister Velayati Addresses Islamic Envoys

LD1502181190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Address by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to a group of ambassadors and charge d'affairs of Islamic countries on 15 February; place not given; read by announces]

[Text] Simultaneous with the issuance of the edict [hokm] by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, on the apostate author of the blasphemous book "THE SATANIC VERSES," Mr Velayati, the foreign affairs minister, today at a gathering of ambassadors and charge d'affairs of the Islamic countries in Iran placed emphasis on the Islamic countries' resistance to propaganda conspiracies by the global arrogance.

Mr Velayati, referring to the old age Western enmity and domineering attitude toward the revivalist Islamic culture, said: The ascending Islamic uprising in the 1980's has awakened Muslims and has removed the superior levers from the hands of the global arrogance and has taken away their illegitimate interests.

He added: Despite the propaganda instruments and art centers at the disposal of the arrogant motivations, and the strength and extent of Western anti-cultural hostilities, the decisive edict of Imam Khomeyni and the Muslims' political awareness, changes the situation to the arrogance's disadvantage.

Mr Velayati also said that insult to Islamic sanctities, under the guise of freedom of speech and opinion, not only does not place the Islamic Ummah in a weak position, but has made it aware, more than ever, the huge power sources of the world of Islam. The most important achievement of that victory is the confirmation of the Muslim masses' decisive role as supporters of Islam's power center at this time and age.

Our country's foreign affairs minister also said that in these sensitive conditions, the Islamic governments should resist and somehow use the advantageous situation which has been achieved as a result of the Muslim Ummah's self-sacrifice.

At the end of his remarks, he proposed that the confrontation with the propaganda hostility against Islam and world Muslims, be placed on the agenda of the 19th meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers.

Commentary on Tajikistan Unrest, Soviet Policy

LD1402183190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Station Commentary]

[Text] During recent days there have been reports of unrest and clashes in the Soviet Republic of Tajikistan. Reports received indicate the unrest stems from the Tajiks' opposition to the plan to house Armenian refugees from Soviet Azerbaijan in this region.

At the same time there have been reports of similar unrests in the Soviet Kirgiz Republic. The Republic of Tajikistan is one of the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union in Central Asia. The region is located northeast of Afghanistan and west of China, and is an area where many other minorities, including the Germans and Koreans, are settled. The settlements are the result of forced migration during the Stalinist era.

On the surface, the unrest and protests in Tajikistan indicate a nationalist uprising. But in light of the demands made by the region's people, who in common with other Muslim settlements in Central Asia have suffered oppression and discrimination, it can be said the Tajiks, like the Azeri Muslims, are seeking to realize their rights; that is, the rights that have been ignored during the 70-year reign of terror.

The Muslims of Tajikistan have resisted the years of pressure and attempts to force Russian culture and language on them and to allocate the top posts in the republics to officials closely affiliated to the central apparatus. Stalin's policy of dividing the Muslim community of the USSR, creating unrealistic borders based on topography, and imposing Russian culture and language is the outstanding aspect of the past 70-year history of the Muslim- inhabited areas.

Thanks to the glasnost and perestroyka policies pursued by the Soviet leadership and government, it seems there now is a possibility the trampled rights of the forgotten Muslim people will be returned to them. The Tajiks demand greater religious freedom and more political independence, and would like the Persian language to become the official language of the Republic of Tajikistan. They also object to unrealistic division of the Central Asian republic.

At present, the Muslims of the Soviet Union are striving to regain their Islamic identity. Of course, it cannot be denied there are some nationalist tendencies among the republics, but what is important is Muslims have rediscovered their identity in the Asian part of the Soviet Union. This also can also be seen emerging among the peoples of the Azerbaijan, Nakhichevan, and Kirgiz republics. A state of emergency has been declared in the Tajikistan Republic to cope with the latest unrest there, and military and security forces have been stationed in various parts of the republic, especially in the city of Dushanbe.

During the recent disputes in Azerbaijan, the Soviet leadership has come to realize more than before that the way to solve problems stemming from expressions of popular sentiment is not merely by resorting to force of arms. Recent decisions of the Soviet Parliament to pass a bill permitting Soviet republics to secede from the Soviet Union perhaps reflect, to a large extent, an understanding of this reality.

The Afghan experience also proved the reality one cannot attain true solutions without considering what people want. Since the expression of popular feelings in recent years springs from the opportunity perestroyka has brought about, true solutions also only can be attained through its peaceful advancement. Any kind of aggression displayed by the Red Army is likely to delay solving problems and will undermine perestroyka and glasnost, because violence leads to violence, and he who sows the seeds of wind will harvest a storm.

The people of the Tajikistan Republic, like the people of many of the southern Soviet republics, are suffering from rapid population increase, unemployment, and other economic and social problems. What aggravates these problems is the prevalence of corruption in the departments under local government. But during the past decades, these peoples have not lost their Islamic identity, despite their problems and the discrimination against them, and today, they are making their demands known to achieve their rights. The Soviet leadership's endeavors to arrive at fundamental solutions by peaceful means surely will have satisfying results for Soviet society and the religious and ethnic minorities, and will move perestroyka toward its goal more closely than ever.

Commentary Assails Soviet Jewish Emigration

NC1502153790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2005 GMT 14 Feb 90

[From "Muslims and Confrontation" Program]

[Text] We want to consider the Soviet position on the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration amid the ongoing international conflict following the collapse of communist ideology and the so-called policy of openness pursued by Soviet leader Gorbachev. This policy so far has failed to prove that its dealings with the Zionist entity do not pursue a dual purpose. This policy is detrimental to the Palestinian cause and provides a free service to Tel Aviv—treacherously killing Palestinians every day.

Instead of unequivocally declaring its stand on daily Zionist terrorism, particularly now when it is increasing, Moscow is maintaining an apathetic attitude. Moscow seems to be rewarding the Zionists for their bloody actions through Soviet Jewish emigration and its consequences, pursuing this policy under the slogan of openness. This slogan seems to be designed to pursue openness to the West on the international level, to Zionism regarding the Islamic-Zionist conflict, and to all religions in the Soviet Union except the Muslim people of Azerbaijan.

What is this openness that is consecrating Zionist occupation of the land of other people, who are relentlessly struggling to regain it and are daily tortured, persecuted, displaced, and killed for their universally acknowledged legitimate rights? Moscow is playing a role that is complementary to international efforts that are aimed at defeating the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territory. Moscow is now unilaterally embarking on a serious action aimed against the intifadah, its identity, and the forces that launched it and are the major moving force behind it, namely, the Islamic forces. Because this intifadah has remained steadfast for well over two years in the face of all international plots, Moscow has decided to undermine the intifadah psychologically and make it feel that it lacks the elements of perpetual steadfastness, given the international factors. The decision also coincides with a suspicious contradiction in the policy of openness inside the Soviet Union, a contradiction for which the Muslim Azerbaijani people alone have paid the price.

If Soviet hostility toward Muslims and their issues under the slogan of openness means anything, it means that Gorbachev is either obsessed by hostility toward Muslims, or he seeks relations with the West by offering the Islamic world as a sacrifice to quench the Western world's thirst. This demonstrates that the Soviet Union understands the extent of the West's hostility toward the Islamic world or Islamic ideology. This ideology has revived and has started to guide [Muslims'] lives, playing a role in unveiling the injustice in the international order under Western domination. Given this understanding and the collapse of communist ideology, the international arena seems to have two ideologies: Islam and the West with its deviant ideas.

One can find no explanation for this aggressive Soviet act against Muslims in several parts of the Islamic world, particularly the Soviet Jewish emigration to the Zionist entity, outside this context of the ongoing ideological conflict. Islam, with its increasing achievements in the international arena and its revival in many parts of the Islamic world and in Europe, and the fact that the intifadah gives evidence of this revival, is annoying the Western powers and is motivating the Soviet Union, whose athiest ideas and principles are collapsing, to take part in the confrontation against Islamic revival either to revenge or to please the West, with whom Gorbachev is trying to base his relations on a new reconciliatory formula. Certainly this detente, despite its cruel effect on Islamists, will consecrate anew the Islamists's commitment to their political and nonpolitical options. Perhaps the recent bus incident in Ismailia in Egypt demonstrates that the conflict will not only be decided by the big powers.

Va'ezi Meets Soviet Counterpart on Border Issue

LD1502115390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Boris Chaplin, USSR deputy foreign minister for consular affairs, currently in Tehran, met with Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi yesterday afternoon on Euro-American affairs.

He described his country's social and political circumstances, while seeking Iran's assistance on issues which have arisen, for the sake of creating calm and stability along the border between the two countries.

The USSR deputy foreign minister added that facilitating people's passage across the border will be a great help toward peacefully resolving issues.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, in turn, stressed the need for thoughtful and peaceful encounters with people. He further considers reaching important agreements to facilitate travel by citizens of both countries as very effective, and being in line with the wishes of the people of Soviet Azerbaijan and other Muslims neighboring the Islamic Republic of Iran. [as heard]

Iraqi Oppositionist Cited on Deceptive 'New Ploy'

LD1302151290 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—A leading Iraqi opposition leader today termed Iraq's latest move to amend its constitution as a "new ploy aimed at deceiving the Iraqi Muslim people." Hojatoleslam Mohammad Baqer Hakim said that Baghdad's attempt to amend its constitution took place at a time when the Muslim people of Iraq who have been subjected to the worst types of atrocities under the pretext of such reform pledges over the past 32 years were stepping up their freedom struggle.

Hakim, who chairs the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), said that a recent abortive attempt by Iraqi Mojahedin to assassinate Saddam Husayn and King Husayn were in retaliation for the Baathist Army's massacre of people in 50 villages near Basar and Hur al-Amara regions.

Although the assassination bid failed but it dealt a heavy psychological blow on the reactionary rulers of Iraq and Jordan, Hakim said.

Since a cease-fire went into effect between Iran and Iraq in August 1988, popular movements inside Iraq have gained momentum so much so that the Baathist Army has so far made three abortive coup attempts to topple Saddam's regime, he said.

The SAIRI head also lauded the Iraqi Mojahedin for setting ablaze some military plants and al-Dowra oil refinery near Baghdad and for detonating a bomb in a club frequented by foreign military experts.

Yazdi Meets With Judiciary Officials 13 Feb

LD1302181490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] High-ranking officials from the judiciary met this morning with judiciary head Yazdi.

During that meeting, the head of the judiciary considered the extensive presence of people from all over the Islamic homeland in marches marking the day of good, 11 February, as a firm and crushing response to all the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as the best indication of the people's presence on the scenes. He said: Even though the Imam was no longer among us during this year 10 days of dawn, his memory and spiritual presence was there in the hearts of every member of the Iranian nation. He further stressed the continuation of this unity and solidarity among the people under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The head of the judiciary also pointed to the need for speedy provision of needs pertaining to the country's judicial organs. He urged Majlis deputies to pay greater attention to reviewing the bill about judicial power which substitutes the Supreme Judicial Council and to ratifying a legal bill pertaining to employment in Islamic revolutionary courts.

Villages Receive Satellite TV Transmitters

LD1402151490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The satellite transmitter for the villages of Fahreh and Farsesh in the districts of Aligudarz was commissioned and has begun operating.

According to the Central News Unit, the power of this transmitter is five watts, and its transmitter power is 60 watts. [sentence as heard] Now that it has become operational, a large number of the inhabitants of the villages in Aligudarz can receive the first program of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [VIRI—Iranian television] with good quality. All work relating to the installation and operation of this transmitter was carried out by the television transmitter repair and maintenance unit of the Khorramabad center.

The television program one relay station for Sarab-e Honam in the Alashtar district, with a power of five watts, also has become operational. With the commissioning of this station, which will boost and relay the VIRI first program on Channel Nine, 3,000 inhabitants of this village now are under coverage. The installation and operation of this station was carried out by the television transmitter repair and maintenance unit of Khorramabad center.

Nepal

Papers Stop Publication Because of Censorship

BK1402163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] In Kathmandu, seven weekly newspapers have stopped publication following imposition of restrictions including censorship and the arrest of several journalists. The government action comes in the wake of the planned agitation by the Nepali Congress beginning on Sunday [18 February] in favor of a multiparty system.

A spokesman of the Nepali Congress said in Kathmandu today that the number of arrests has gone up to 2,500.

Four senior political leaders have appealed to the Nepalese Government to release immediately those jailed as, what they called, political prisoners. In a statement in New Delhi, they said the consequences of repression are always counterproductive. The signatories to the statement are Mr. Chandrashekhar, Janata Dal; Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Shiv Shanker, Congress-I; and Mr. M. Farooqi, CPI [Communist Party of India].

Government Hopes for Improved Ties With India

BK1202034190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0202 GMT 12 Feb 90

[By Marie-France Rouze]

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 12 (AFP)—Nepal is hoping that India's recent change of government will lead to a rapid improvement in relations with its giant neighbor after a partial trade blockade of nearly a year, officials here say.

"We had a very meaningful start of dialogue," Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya said in an interview, adding that Kathmandu would "find some way to allay their fear of Nepal being a threat to India."

He added that New Delhi appeared sincere in wanting to break the impasse in relations with this landlocked mountain kingdom wedged between India and China.

In March 1989, New Delhi imposed an economic blockade on Nepal, closing all but two border crossings to shipments of commodities and petroleum products. India announced the move after Nepal refused to renew an expired bilateral trade and transit treaty, arguing that two separate treaties should be signed.

"If we have only one treaty, they can exert pressure on trade by not letting transit" of goods coming from other nations, said Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narendra Bickram Shah.

But he added that the new government of Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh "will accept to sign two treaties."

Mr. Shah will head a delegation to New Delhi February 20-21 to seek a settlement to the dispute between the two countries and prepare the way for a visit to Kathmandu by Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral. The delegation will include Commerce Secretary D.P. Gautam and Defense Secretary M.S. Thapa.

Behind the Indian pressures are Nepal's efforts to shake off New Delhi's influence over its internal affairs, especially in defense matters, sources here said.

New Delhi took a particularly dim view of Kathmandu's purchase of Chinese weapons, including anti-aircraft guns, officially aimed at battling "terrorists" opposed to the government.

But despite Nepal's optimism, neither country has shown any willingness to make concrete concessions.

"Like it or not, China is a factor in international relations," Mr. Shah said. "For Nepal, it's another neighbor. India has to get adjusted to it."

Mr. Upadhyaya said the two sides were "trying to find a common acceptable interpretation" of the issue of the weapons purchase from China, with which India fought a brief border war in 1962.

India's closure of 19 of its 21 border crossings into Nepal has caused a serious shortage of gas and kerosene here, triggering a 25 per cent to 30 per cent increase in prices which has hit people hard in a country where per capita annual income averages 170 dollars.

The blockade has also halted Indian imports of Nepalese products, as well as hampered mail shipments of hard currency from Nepalese working in India to their families back home, causing hard currency reserves here to fall to just five months' worth of imports.

Bankers have said, however, that Nepal has so far successfully resisted Indian pressures, partly because two border crossings remain open but largely because much of the population lives outside the money economy. But some also noted that India could strangle this little kingdom's economy in two weeks if it chose to.

One source here acknowledged that Mr. V.P. Singh's administration has shown itself more accommodating in foreign policy matters than the previous administration of Premier Rajiv Gandhi and added that India had "not pushed us in a corner."

Mr. Singh assumed office in December vowing to reverse India's image as a regional bully.

But one source close to the delegation set to visit New Delhi said Kathmandu had no illusions about India's capabilities, adding that "India thinks they are a big power and wants to have a finger in every pie."

Pakistan

Spokesman Rejects Indian Evidence on Kashmir

Claims Documents Not Credible

BK1502144290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan has categorically rejected the so-called evidence put forward by India as proof of its involvement in the uprising in the occupied Kashmir. A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman has described the so-called evidence put forward in the form of a 26-page document as (?ridiculous).

Briefing newsmen in Islamabad this evening, the spokesman said the so-called evidence conveyed through its embassy in New Delhi could not impress any one who is familiar with the geography and the names of the localities in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. The spokesman asked how the materials contained in the documents put forward by India can be credible, when they allege that Pakistan conducts training to Kashmiri freedom fighters in 57 cities and towns, whereas the names of some cities have [words indistinct] apparently been written twice. The spokesman expressed surprise at how a country could establish such training camps in its territory if it carries out any covert activity.

Calls Evidence 'Ridiculous'

BK1502170090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Pakistan has categorically rejected the so-called evidence put forward by India as proof of its involvement in the uprising in the occupied Kashmir. A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman has described the so-called evidence put forward in the form of a document as ridiculous. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad this evening, the spokesman said the so-called evidence conveyed through its embassy in New Delhi could not impress anyone who is familiar with the geography and the names of the localities in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Some other documents, which speak of evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the uprising of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, include a letterhead of the regional office of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, copies of acknowledgement to the memoranda sent by the Front to the UN observers, identification of the offices of the secretaries of the Front in Karachi, and a book (?Liberate Kashmir). They also include photo copies of (?tickets), posters, and the membership forms of the Front, through which it has been attempted to prove [words indistinct] the involvement of Pakistan in the situation in Kashmir. The spokesman said this Front is neither a clandestine organization nor is there any dearth of published materials and books on Kashmir. The truth is that even if India searches its own libraries, it would find a lot of published material on Kashmir.

In other so-called evidence, there are pictures of AK-47 rifles and the names of persons who have given statements of admission on alleged training in Pakistan. The pictures of such rifles can be printed in millions of places in the world, and the so-called statements of admission are unclear and are void of details. In addition to this, the (?statements) that have been obtained under duress have no value before law and ethics. The spokesman expressed the opinion that India was forced to consolidate a bundle of lies only because Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her address to the joint session of Parliament challenged India to produce any correct evidence to prove its baseless allegations against Pakistan. Pakistan would not have reacted so quickly to India's act had not India cleverly submitted the text of these documents to its press, which is against the diplomatic norms and codes on bilateral issues.

He said that by fabricating facts India wants to involve Pakistan. The global mass media has already unmasked the role of India in its atrocities against the people of occupied Kashmir. Foreign journalists have brought out the truth that India has unleashed a propaganda campaign against Pakistan as it was (?disturbed) by the freedom struggle launched by the people of occupied Kashmir. The spokesman also urged the global mass media and fearless human rights organization to pay attention to the serious human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and to unveil them. Strict news censorship has been imposed in occupied Kashmir, and a curfew has been clamped on in Srinagar and several other towns. However, according to the reports coming from across the control line, international borders, or other sources, the freedom struggle continues in occupied Kashmir.

The Foreign Office spokesman reiterated Pakistan's determination to keep the situation under control and added that it does not want to vitiate the situation and allow it to take the shape of a confrontation. But, at the same time, it is not possible for us to keep silent when millions of Kashmiris are made the target of atrocities and are oppressed and deprived of their basic rights. He said Pakistan does not want war, but it is fully capable of defending itself.

The spokesman made it clear that the true spirit of the UN resolutions on Kashmir is to enable the Kashmiri people to move freely in their area. Holding a plebiscite in Kashmir was not proposed by Pakistan but by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. This fact should also be borne in mind, that through various documents and statements time and again India said the future of Kashmiris will be decided by referendum.

Charges Human Rights Violations

BK1602110390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Feb 90 pp 1, 14

[Text]Islamabad—A Foreign Office spokesman on Thursday [15 February] said Pakistan had an obligation to tell the world of the blatant violations of human rights being perpetrated inside the Occupied Kashmir.

At a news briefing here at the Foreign Office, he said that India was crushing the freedom struggle of Kashmiri people which was purely indigenous. It was a result of the long denial of the right of self-determination.

"But India is accusing Pakistan in the hope that this kind of propaganda could act as a 'smoke screen' for the violence against the Kashmiri people", he remarked.

The spokesman said the information of what was happening in Held Kashmir was getting scarcer everyday. No independent observers had been left there. Foreign correspondents had been expelled and even the independent journalists from India itself had not been allowed in.

News only came through official sources, he said, adding that reports reaching here through various sources had made it clear that despite all the restrictions and use of brute force, India had not been able to quell the uprising.

Making a reference to the attack on the conference on death anniversary of Kashmiri leader Maqbool Butt, the spokesman said para-military force had been used to dismount black flags. [sentence as published]

Despite all that, the uprising continues. There are reports of the activists clashes with the official forces, bomb blasts, arson, killing, demonstrations and even the rallies staged by women. All the forces including regular army, reserve force, Occupied Kashmir police and Indian regular police could not crush the struggle.

He said that in the house-to-house search for freedom fighters the Indian forces had taken women and children to interrogation centres. Many had died during these interrogations. Every child above 8 years of age was taken as "terrorist".

Also, mosques could not use loudspeakers. The Government was offering money to those who could spot freedom fighers. Yet there was outrage among the people, even in the legislators belonging to Farooq Abdullah's party, who had condemned the violence and had demanded a withdrawal of troops.

The spokesman said there were restrictions even on normal travel. If India was confident of itself, it should open the place to media persons and representatives of international organisations which are concerned with human rights to investigate the real reasons of the uprising.

He also said "a word of thanks" to the foreign correspondents who had been reporting the Kashmir events with impartiality, because of which, he said, India had been forced to prepare a "tissue of lies" against Pakistan.

The foreign correspondents, the spokesman said, had testified to the fact that the struggle in Kashmir was purely indigenous. "This had unnerved India".

NEWSWEEK Containing Rushdie Interview Banned

BK1402161090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 (AFP)—Pakistan has banned the latest issue of the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK as it contains an interview with author Salman Rushdie, whose opinions offend the Pakistani people, an official statement said Wednesday.

"While the Government of Pakistan upholds the right of free speech, it will not countenance the propagation of views and opinions which offend or are against the fundamental beliefs of the people of Pakistan," the statement said.

On February 12, 1989 a demonstration organized against Mr. Rushdie by certain Islamic opposition parties degenerated as protesters attacked the U.S. Cultural Center here.

Police fired on the crowd, killing five people and injuring 40, according to official figures. It was the first violent demonstration in the world against the publication of Mr. Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses."

Pakistan is an Islamic republic, 96 per cent of whose 110 million inhabitants are Muslims.

Mr. Rushdie, a British citizen of Indian descent, has been in hiding since the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni sentenced him to death one year ago for blasphemy against Islam in "The Satanic Verses."